■ World / A8

Queen Elizabeth won't attend Charles-Camilla wedding in April

■ News / A4

Top 20 new doctors; full list in www.inq7.net

■ Across / A15

882 furniture makers in C. Luzon reel from log ban

■ News / A2

Ex-actress files more cases vs Martin Soriano

■ INQUIRER IN-DEPTH

Family planning ba? Natural!

Isang paraang safe, effective...at garantisado? Ngayong alas-11 ng gabi

Look who's talking about a 'gangster-minded clique'

UNITED SILANG LIMA, IKAW HINDI?

By Carlito Pablo

WITH the way opposition Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) is throwing a tantrum, something must be wrong in the United Opposition (UNO).

LOOK/A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't: MNLF must disarm first before dev't projects

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT will press the Moro National Liberation Front to fully disarm eight years after the MNLF signed a peace pact with Manila to prevent future uprisings and pave the way for development projects in the Au-

GOV'T / A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, February 24, 2005 ★★★ 48 pages 5 sections Vol. 20 No. 78 P18

website: www.inq7.net

3 JI militants, 1 Abu fall

Makati blast suspects to be presented to media today

By Christian Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

TWO Indonesians and a Malaysian allegedly belonging to the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist network have reportedly been arrested by intelligence operatives in Zamboanga City in connection with the Valentine's Day bombings that killed eight people and wounded at least 150 others.

A top police official, who declined to be identified, said the three JI suspects, along with a member of the Abu Sayyaf group, are set to be presented at a press conference scheduled at 10 a.m. today in Camp Crame. The four are now in the custody of the Philippine National Police.

PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay earlier announced the "big news" but played striptease with the details and advised reporters to wait for the press conference.

But PNP intelligence chief, Director Robert Delfin, told the INQUIRER that the four men were arrested by the Intelligence Group in Zamboanga City.

He said one was a known Abu Sayyaf member tagged in some of the high-profile kidnapping cases in the South, and the other three were members of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the regional affiliate of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

On Tuesday, two other men suspected of involvement in the bomb attack in Makati were arrested in Mandaluyong and later presented to the media at Camp Aguinaldo. They were identified as Gamal "Tapay" Baharan and Angelo Trinidad alias Abu Khalil Trinidad.

Later that day, Baharan and Trinidad were taken to the Department of Justice where a criminal complaint of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder was filed against them.

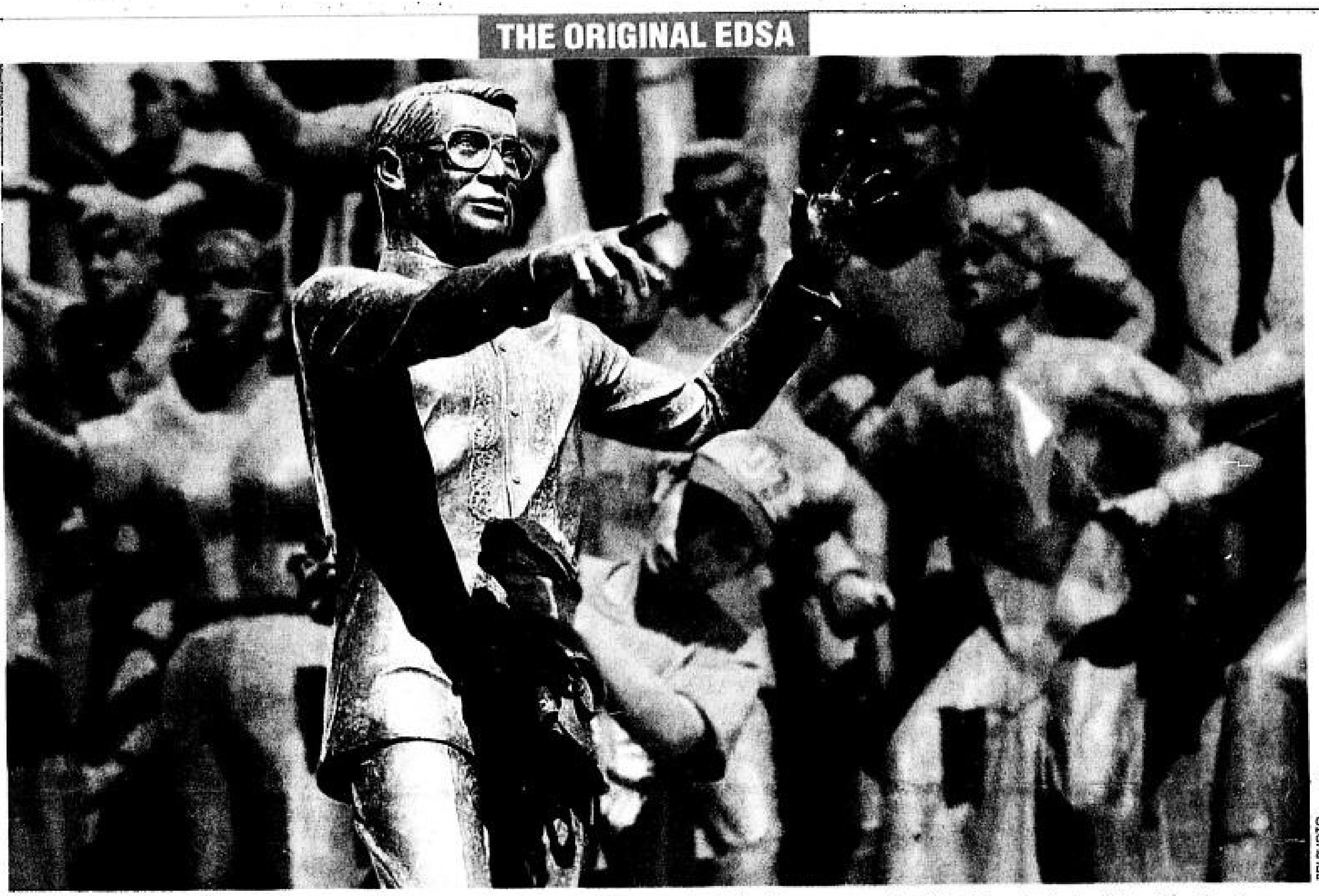
State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said two Abu Sayyaf members had positively identified Baharan and Trinidad as among their former cohorts who took part in the Sipadan kidnappings in 2000.

The former members of the bandit group have turned state witnesses and are now in the DOJ Witness Protection Program, Velasco said.

When Baharan and Trinidad were presented to the media on Tuesday, authorities said they were looking for a certain Maidan alias Negro. It could not be ascertained if Maidan is one of the four men to be paraded in Camp Crame today.

3 JI MILITANTS/ A6

THE ORIGINAL EDSA



PDI PHOTO

THE WANDERING bronze statue of Ninoy Aquino—cast in Rome in 1983, flown to the United States, put up in Makati, donated to the City of Manila—has finally found a home at the People Power Monument along Edsa. A DPWH employee cleans up the sculpture by Tomas Concepcion on time for its unveiling by Aquino's widow former President Cory Aquino on Friday, Feb. 25. The statue was among the first made after the Aquino assassination on Aug. 21, 1983.

Edsa I started with Ninoy

By Fe Zamora

HOME at last.

After 21 years of searching for an ideal spot, the bronze statue of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was finally installed beside the People Power Monument on Edsa, a fitting tribute to the man whose martyrdom sparked the Feb. 22-25, 1986 uprising.

The spot was chosen because "Edsa Began with Ninoy," the marker on the statue read.

"The death of Ninoy sparked People Power, and so we thought it was fitting that he should be there," Commissioner Christopher Carrion, chair of the Spirit of Edsa Foundation, said.

Ninoy's widow, former President Cory Aquino, will unveil the statue on Friday morning, Feb. 25, which also marks the last day of the four-day People Power uprising 19 years ago.

Cast in Rome by Filipino sculptor Tomas Concepcion in September 1983, the Ninoy statue was among the first made of the opposition leader following his assassination at

EDSA/ A6

2 Edsas the same: No real change of heart

By Eugenia Duran-Apostol

(The author is the INQUIRER founding chair. She now chairs the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.)

(First of two parts)

WHEN Kris Aquino was 12 years old, asleep at her parents' house in Boston, Massachusetts, she was awakened by her mother Cory with the news that

2 EDSAS/ A6

Did Roldan's girlfriend try to commit suicide?

By Christian Esguerra

WAS IT a ploy or did she really mean to kill herself?

Dennis Roldan's purported girlfriend, said to be his co-mastermind in the abduction of a Chinese-Filipino boy two weeks ago, tried to commit suicide yesterday—first by attempting to jump off a building, then by "slashing" her wrists.

Suzette See Wang created a scene by standing on the ninth floor of a San Juan building, threatening to jump on several occasions before lunch, according to a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"She said she wanted to end her life already," the source told the INQUIRER. "Soon police came rushing to the scene but she just remained standing. It seems she just wanted to attract attention."

With several people anxiously watching her every move, Wang allegedly turned to slashing her wrists.

The source could not tell if she succeeded but said she might have "somehow wounded herself." Wang was later brought to a San Juan hospital.

The source claimed the "injuries"

DID ROLDAN'S/ A19

Old boxer's final round wins forgiveness

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The old fighter fell on his knees, crying and begging for forgiveness, during the final round of what could be the most important bout of his life.

On Tuesday, former bantamweight boxer Willie Cordova's search for his daughter Josie, whom he had not seen for 32 years, ended in a tearful reunion in the house of her employer on Lizares Extension here.

When he finally saw her, he knelt before her and pleaded with her to come home with him and give him a chance to make things right.

Josie, 34, who works as a housemaid, took several minutes to answer. When she finally said yes, the 62-year-old Cordova burst in happiness, as if a heavy load had been lifted off his chest.

"I will make it up to Josie and give

OLD/ A5

ANDY ALVAREZ/CONTRIBUTOR

MAIN BOUT: Australia-based former bantamweight boxer Willie Cordova asks his daughter Josie for forgiveness after abandoning her, her two brothers and their mother for the past 32 years.

Suzette pal of kidnapped boy's mom since nursery

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE WOMAN who allegedly masterminded the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy has been his mother's friend since pre-school days.

"My wife could not believe it because Suzette (Wang) is a friend [of my wife] since nursery, (and) they came from the same school," the boy's father, Roger Yu, said yesterday.

From interviews with the father and anticrime advocates Teresita Ang-See and Me-Ann Dy, a sketchy profile of Suzette has emerged.

Her family is into the lighting

SUZETTE/ A19

JUST BETWEEN US, VETS

Sixty years ago, the Japanese prison camp in Los Baños was liberated by Filipino guerrillas even before US paratroopers could land. Among the prisoners was Fr. James Reuters, S.J. who awarded a commemorative badge during the rites of remembrance on Wednesday.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao particularly the eastern section will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/24/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

More cases vs Martin Soriano

By Leila B. Salaverria

MARTIN Soriano's woes are not yet over.

Yesterday, former actress Aurora Sevilla surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation to file complaints against Soriano for allegedly taking her car and her son's condominium unit, including all its furnishings, in 1999.

Since then, she had not recovered the car nor the condo unit despite repeated attempts to do so.

"He didn't even return to me my son's puppy that was left in the condo despite my pleas that he give me even just that," a tearful Sevilla recounted to reporters yesterday after she met with NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Soriano, however, denied taking the condominium unit, saying he paid the actress P3 million in cash for the condo and have the documents to back it up.

"We will settle this in court," he said in reply to the actress' allegations.

Soriano, a dismissed NBI intelligence agent, was arrested last month for kidnapping. He was also accused by police asset Mary "Rosebud" Ong of kidnapping her and her mother.

He was brought to the NBI yesterday for questioning in connection with Ong's complaint.

But Sevilla said she had documents to prove her claims against the former NBI intelligence agent.

She said she met Soriano in February or March of 1999 at the Grand Boulevard Hotel after they were introduced by Marian Mendoza, a common friend. She said Mendoza was a moneylender at the casinos.

Shortly after the meeting, she run into financial trouble and needed cash quickly. So she pawned her red P3.2 million Mercedes Benz to Soriano through Mendoza for P100,000, fully intending to buy it back the next day.

However, when Sevilla tried to regain her car, Soriano allegedly refused to return it. She later learned that the car was already registered under a new owner at the Land Transportation Office and its plate number changed.

A day after this incident, Soriano allegedly took possession of the condominium unit at the Renaissance 2000 along Meralco Avenue in Pasig City, which was under her son's name and which she was holding in trust for the latter.

Sevilla recalled that she was holding an open house at the condominium unit for prospective tenants but later left, claiming it pained her to see people trying to rent her home.

When she returned in the evening, the condo unit was already locked up and the entry codes changed.

She said she later learned that Soriano and his men were behind the incident after one of the latter's henchmen allegedly told her that the unit already belonged to Soriano.

Upon hearing this, she called up Soriano to plead that he return the unit, but he allegedly refused to do so.

2 Germans in Naia 3 deal ordered arrested

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday issued arrest warrants for two German nationals accused of amending a contract for the construction of the Naia 3 airport terminal project to the detriment of the government.

Ordered arrested were Hans Arthur Vogel and Bernd Struck, a director and a consultant, respectively, at Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), the consortium which built the airport terminal.

Prosecutors have accused Vogel and Struck of conspiring with three Filipino colleagues and government officials to add "onerous provisions" to that contract.

The anti-graft court did not issue arrest warrants for the three Filipino defendants from Piatco because they posted bail. It was not clear why the Germans did not post bail.

In 1997, the Piatco consortium struck a deal with the previous administration to build and operate the Naia 3 project.

Piatco, led by Germany's Fraport AG, invested US$650 million and had nearly completed the project when in 2003 the Supreme Court declared the contract void. The high tribunal said Piatco did not have sufficient funds to undertake the project when the deal was struck and that several amendments had been made to the contract that were disadvantageous to the government.

Among the objectionable amendments is a provision for the government to pay Piatco P180 million (US$3.27 million) if the contract is nullified, and another allowing the company to build an access road rather than a tunnel from the terminal to the rest of the airport.

Prosecutors have already indicted eight transport officials from the previous government, including three former secretaries of the Department of Transportation and Communications, for their involvement in the award of the contract. *AP*

Treasury employees protest

OFFICIALS and employees the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) staged a rally outside the BTr premises at noon yesterday to protest the third-party custodianship being forced on the bureau by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Treasurer Norma Lasala, which is about to be replaced by former Citibanker Omar Cruz, was said to have lost her position due to her stiff position against the third-party custodianship.

Under the third party custodianship being required by the BSP, debt securities both from the government and private entities will have to be entrusted to accredited custodians to prevent the debt papers from being sold over and over.

So far there are six accredited custodians, namely Bank of the Philippine Islands, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Citibank and the Philippine Dealing System.

Employees said the rally was sparked by news that Lasala was going to be replaced due to her efforts to go against the third-party custodianship. *Michelle V. Remo*

Senate-House showdown over VAT looms

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

THE HOUSE and the Senate looked ready to come to a confrontation over the administration measure proposing to increase the value-added tax rate from the present 10 percent to 12 percent.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said the process of reconciling the differing positions of the two chambers on the VAT could become "bloody."

De Venecia said the House would not budge for its position on increasing the VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent because the bill had already been approved by the whole body.

Asked how "bloody" the confrontation would be, the Speaker said in jest: "Well, at a certain point, it will need some blood transfusion."

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., reacting to Sen. Ralph Recto's statement that the Senate was looking for "more creative means" to raise public revenues, rose on the floor late Tuesday to denounce the suggestion.

Locsin reminded the Senate that under the Constitution, all revenue bills must emanate from the House and that the Senate can only either concur with amendments or reject the entire measure.

"That they can craft any bill on any subject regarding taxation because it suits them to do that, because it suits them to be creative, that is an insult to this House," said the fuming Locsin.

Under a scheme suggested by Recto, the Senate has indicated it would reject the Malacañang proposal to increase the VAT rate by 20 percent but proposes lifting the VAT exemptions of certain sectors, like the independent power producers and oil firms and, increase corporate taxes to 35 percent and reduce personal income taxes by 20 percent.

Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said Recto was "out of bounds." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Join na TAYO!

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION · OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
KILOSKO!
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Department of Social Welfare and Development
TEN ACCOMPLISHED YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS Tayo

Calling all youth orgs...
Stand up and be recognized as one of the
Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO),
the country's foremost award for youth service!

The Search is open to all groups, organizations, clubs & societies whose membership & leadership is composed of at least 15 Filipinos who are 15 to 30 years old.

Orgs shall be judged on the basis of a recent program or project that made an impact on their school, barangay or local community, and which best reflects the efforts of young people as partners in nation-building in any of the following areas: education & capability-building, community development, health & sanitation, environmental protection & conservation, culture & the arts, media & communications, and business, livelihood & entrepreneurship.

Project entries will be based on the following criteria:
- **Impact of the project entry to the local community** (e.g., improvement in literacy, sanitation, health, income, etc.)
- **Social mobilization** (e.g., involvement of the community – especially the youth – in planning, implementing and evaluating the program or project)
- **Innovativeness** (introduction/application of new technologies, uniqueness of service or products, promotion of unique and indigenous ways or materials)
- **Sustainability and probability of duplication**

TAYO winners will each receive a grant amounting to P50,000 and specially handcrafted trophies during the awarding ceremonies to be held in Malacanang in April 2005.

Entry forms are available in all NYC, DSWD, local government offices & various schools' Office of Student Affairs, or download forms from **www.tayoawards.org** and **www.youth.net.ph.**

For more details, contact: **TAYO Secretariat**
National Youth Commission
4th Floor, Bookman Building, 373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
(02)781-2323, 781-1152, 781-1671
e-mail: tayo@youth.net.ph

Now is the time to show the world the good you've done!

www.tayoawards.org
Deadline is extended to February 28, 2005!

In partnership with:
Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders & TAYO Awards Foundation, Inc.
also brought to you by: Caltex ● PAGCOR ● Cebu Pacific

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

14 doomed convicts get reprieve

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ignored fresh calls to lift a freeze on capital punishment amid a rising crime rate and granted a reprieve to 14 death row inmates, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

The 14, whose names were withheld, were scheduled to die by lethal injection in May.

But Ms Arroyo, a deeply religious Catholic, approved a recommendation by the justice department that the group be granted a reprieve, Ermita said.

They will be freed today, he said.

The announcement came amid mounting calls from crime watchdogs for Ms Arroyo to lift a moratorium on capital punishment amid high-profile kidnapping cases.

Just this week, police uncovered a kidnap gang allegedly headed by an ex-congressman, and rescued a three-year-old boy after nearly two weeks in captivity.

Former congressman Mitchell Gumabao, also known as Dennis Roldan, is now detained with six other suspects and is also being investigated for kidnapping cases in the past. *(See related stories)*

"For the moment, the president has not considered lifting the moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty," Ermita said.

The Philippines lifted a ban on judicial executions in 1999 during the term of deposed president Joseph Estrada as part of the government's anticrime drive.

Seven inmates were executed between 1999 and 2000 before Estrada imposed a moratorium on further executions after pressure from the politically influential Catholic Church and rights groups.

After a rash of kidnappings and murders in 2003, Ms Arroyo lifted the moratorium and said that the law must be followed to appease victims and crime watchdogs. She subsequently reimposed the moratorium.

There are about 1,005 inmates on the death row, 29 of them women. *AFP*

WITH ₱200M IN FUNDS

Erap's Muslim foundation had 5 scholars in 5 years

By Armand N. Nocum

WITH more than P200 million in funds, the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation of jailed ex-President Estrada managed to send to school only five Muslim scholars in the past five years of its existence, it was revealed during testimony at Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

But Danilo Reyes, the foundation's treasurer who was presented as a defense witness, said their inability to finance the schooling of deserving Muslims was due to factors beyond their control, including the freezing of the EMYF's funds after it was accused of laundering the bribes that Estrada allegedly received from "jueteng," the illegal numbers game.

"The organization was in hiatus for three years and we were not able to meet," said Reyes, an associate professor at the University of the Philippines.

He said the continued operation of the foundation, which was incorporated on Feb. 17, 2000, had been stymied by the medical operation that its chair, UP vice president Raul de Guzman, had to undergo in the United States and the resignation of its treasurer, banker George Go.

Reyes also cited the arrest and incarceration of the foundation's corporate lawyer, Edward Serapio, who was accused of laundering the P200 million which jueteng operators had allegedly funneled into the foundation through Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

He said that after De Guzman recovered from his surgery and Serapio was released, the EMYF resumed operations in 2004.

The scholarship program was to have gone into full blast early last year but failed to do so because it was not able to sign agreements with beneficiary schools in Mindanao, Reyes said.

He said the foundation was able to finance the studies of four Muslim scholars who were taking up master's degrees at the UP and a fourth student at the Philippine Normal University last year.

He said the UP scholars receive P10,000 each semester, or P20,000 a year.

Reyes said that through the years, and especially in 2002, the foundation has been receiving requests for funding from Muslims in various schools all over the country.

Defense lawyer Cleofe Verzola presented Reyes in court to show that the EMYF was "not a bogus foundation."

But Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio did not agree, noting that Reyes had skirted the issue of where the P200 million donated to the foundation came from.

Reyes had testified on Monday that Serapio had kept from the other officers the identity of the people who donated the P200 million to the foundation in 2000.

"They have no witness to say where the money came from while on the part of the prosecution, we have Singson testifying that the money came from him," Villa-Ignacio said.

He also dismissed the credibility of Reyes' testimony, noting that he was a consultant to Estrada and his wife, Sen. Loi Ejercito

"These are all Erap's people," he said of Reyes and the 19 other witnesses that the defense has so far presented.

3 Cabinet members confirmed

DEFENSE Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., Science and Technology Secretary Estrelita Alabastro, and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita finally got the nod of the Commission on Appointments in yesterday's hearings.

The confirmation of Cruz, Alabastro, and Ermita brought to eight the total number of Cabinet officials whose appointments have been approved by the commission.

Previously confirmed were Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Education Secretary Florencio Abad, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

HOT BABE

Starlet Ana Lea Javier, a member of the Viva Hot Babes sexy dance group, shows pictures of her with Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz as proof of their meeting during her filing of a sexual harassment case against the congressman at the House ethics committee. Earlier, she filed a case before the Department of Justice.

MITCH MAURICIO

Mikey's friendship with Dennis Roldan puts mom on defensive

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo may have been put on the defensive by her legislator son publicly supporting former congressman and actor Dennis Roldan who is accused of leading a kidnap gang.

But the President is not about to give Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo a spanking or a lecture for expressing disbelief and belittling the achievements of the police which arrested his friend, Roldan, aka Mitchell Gumabao, along with six others at the weekend for the kidnapping of a three-year-old boy.

"The President respects the opinion of Congressman Arroyo just like the opinion of others. That is his personal opinion and we have to allow him some leeway to express his personal opinion," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"We might disagree with him but he is entitled to his opinion," Bunye said.

As far as the President was concerned, Bunye said the young Arroyo was "free to express his personal opinion on particular issues."

He pointed out that Mikey Arroyo made his statements in his personal capacity and that the media should "leave it at that."

Despite Mikey Arroyo's friendship with Roldan, Bunye said the case would be pursued "subject to the constitutional rights of the accused."

Bunye was evasive when asked if the President has ever tried to straighten out her eldest son who has made a number of public statements that have become an embarrassment to his mother's administration.

Recently, the young Arroyo came out in support of the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes, a position that contradicted the President's campaign against illegal drugs, including marijuana. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Letran High class '81

MEMBERS of San Juan de Letran College high school class of 1981 have been urged to log on to the batch website in preparation for the 2006 Grand Alumni Homecoming which they are hosting.

The website is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Letranista77-81 or e-mail at Letranista77-81@yahoogroups.com. This early, the batch is already preparing to host the SJLC 2006 Grand Alumni Homecoming. Batchmates can also call class president Lloyd Lee at 9106342.

11th Annual Shape Up Philippines **SUPER** promo:

Sign up *and* get 3 FREE Abs-Sculpting Treatments!

For February 24, 2005 only

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0809, Series of 2005

www.mariefrance.com.ph

Marie France Bodyline

Call 894-BODY now!

MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

AAP presents

CAR of the YEAR

1st CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Find out the best of the best

Thursday, February 24, 2005, 8pm at the Rockwell Tent at the Plaza

In cooperation with

Manila Motor Show

Rockwell Center

Rockwell Land Corporation

Sponsored By

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.

Manila North Luzon Tollways (MNTC)

INQUIRER

CALTEX

Organized by Car Awards Group Inc.

MASINLOC POWER PLAY

Aussie-RP group seeks funds for winning bid

SINGAPORE—An Australian-Filipino group which won the bidding to buy a major power plant is looking to borrow around $200 million to help fund the half-billion-dollar deal, a source familiar with the situation said on Wednesday.

The YNN-Pacific Consortium Inc., composed of local firm YNN Holdings and Australia's Great Pacific Financial Group, submitted the highest bid in December for the 600-MW coal-fired Masinloc plant. As a sweetener, the winning bidder only has to put down 40 percent of the price and can pay the rest within seven years.

"They are approaching various people (for financing) but haven't got any response," the source, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

The consortium has nine months from the date of the deal's announcement to pay the cash-strapped Philippine government 40 percent of the acquisition price of $560 million. If they fail to do so, the bidder would lose the $9 million it has put down as downpayment for the asset.

The YNN-Pacific Consortium, which is little known in the power industry, has not yet raised the money because banks are wary about funding the acquisition, the source said.

The Masinloc power station, built at a cost of $530 million in 1998, is a so-called merchant plant that does not hold any long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) providing revenue guarantees.

The consortium is trying to sign PPAs by itself with electricity users in the Philippines, the source said. Without PPAs, overseas banks would be reluctant to lend because of the high regulatory risks in the Philippine power industry, he added.

If they cannot secure the contracts, they have to fund it via equity. But "who wants to invest in a merchant power project in the Philippines?" he asked.

Industry watchers doubt the consortium would have the financial muscle itself to buy the power plant.

According to media reports in the Philippines, the consortium said it was capable of financing the purchase but had not yet decided where the money would come from.

There is little official financial information on Great Pacific Financial Group and YNN Holdings.

On its website www.greatpacific.com.au, Great Pacific says it is a property investment company which manages total assets of nearly A$2 billion, including mortgages, residential properties, hotels, serviced apartments and infrastructure assets.

Great Pacific in Sydney was not available for comment, while YNN in the Philippines could not be reached for comment.

An official at PSALM, the Philippine power-sector privatization office, contacted by telephone said only that the consortium would lose its downpayment if it failed to raise the money for the acquisition in time.

Reuters

ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI METRO • METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.

TOPS 2004

SEARCH FOR THE OUTSTANDING PHILIPPINE SOLDIERS

Honoring Outstanding Filipinos

THE 10 Outstanding Philippine Soldiers

CAPTAIN HAROLD MAGALLANES CABUNOC
Philippine Army

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
RENATO TAMBONG DELOS SANTOS
Philippine Army

TECHNICAL SERGEANT
LUDIE RAMOS DONQUE
Philippine Army

COLONEL ROMEO DE VERA POQUIZ
Philippine Air Force

TECHNICAL SERGEANT
VICTORIANO RAMOS NOVIDA
Philippine Air Force

STAFF SERGEANT
SAMSON DE VERA VILORIA
Philippine Air Force

COMMANDER BAYANI RABAGO GAERLAN
Philippine Navy

STOREKEEPER 2 MELVIN SENADOS DAGUIO
Philippine Navy

MASTER SERGEANT
LEONARDO COLOT CLEOFE
Philippine Navy (Marines)

COMMANDING OFFICER
JOSEPH MEDIANA ACOSTA, MD
Technical Service

Ten men, one award. The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers of 2004. A tribute to heroism, gallantry, dedication and integrity in the Armed Force of the Philippines.

From the hinterlands of Jolo to the dental dispensary at Villamor Air Base, these exemplary men of the Armed Forces have each made their mark as soldiers. More than overpowering strongholds of insurgency or keeping enemies of the state at bay, these outstanding soldiers have helped win the war against poverty, indifference and mediocrity. Just as importantly, their excellent service records should help bring back the pride and honor among our men and women in uniform.

Once again, the Rotary Club of Makati-Metro and the Metrobank Foundation congratulate this year's winners in the annual search for The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers. In recognizing their achievements and contributions, we hope to inspire their peers and the rest of us with models to emulate.

ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI METRO
District 3830 Philippines

You are made to excel
METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC.
Member, League of Corporate Foundations, Inc.

In Cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Donor: Armscor

1,084 out of 1,990 pass doctors exam

A TOTAL of 1,084 out of 1,990 examinees passed the physicians' licensure examinations conducted by the Board of Medicine in Manila and Cebu earlier this month, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced yesterday.

Christopher Almo Chang topped the exams with a rating of 85.50.

The results were released two working days after the last day of examinations.

The oath-taking ceremony of the new doctors, including those in previous exams who have not yet taken their Oath of Professional, will be held before the Board of Medicine on March 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

Registration for membership with the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) will start on March 7.

The successful examinees who garnered the 20 highest places:

Rank	Name	Rating
1.	Christopher Almo Chang	85.50
2.	Remuel Belen Briones	84.33
3.	Emmy Lissa Paguirigan Oh	84.08
4.	Carina Valencia Chavente	83.50
5.	Mia Isadora Lucero Loyola-Fronteras	83.17
6.	Carmencita Robleza Esquivel	82.83
	Christian Cruz Lanot	82.83
7.	Arthur Anthony Lacanienta Cavan	82.75
8.	Stephanie Lim Alandy-Dy	82.67
9.	Michael Arden Gomez Perdon	82.58
10.	Jane Opina Francisco	82.50
11.	Roel Velchez Evangelista	82.33
12.	Nelson Jr Cartabio Agapay	82.00
	Michael Hubert Rilla Leonardo	82.00
	Maria Solina Napiza Oconer	82.00
13.	Anna Katherina Chan Mendoza	81.83
14.	Demuel Dee Lozada Berto	81.75
	Alex Lagman Cruz	81.75
	William Michael Jr Plaza Mellana	81.75
15.	Mary Eleanor Soriano Bautista	81.50
	Leomerto Acupan Somera	81.50
	Vicente Ii Bernal Vila	81.50
16.	Michael Richard Munoz Atos	81.33
	Dexter Capagngan Lara	81.33
	Randolph Domil Moselina	81.33
17.	Marlon Catalogo Deocampo	81.25
18.	Petronilo Noel Balisi Reyes	81.17
	Nello Bayani Iv Jr Rodas Roa	81.17
19.	Helki Ilia Marie Belmonte Filart	81.08
	Maria Clarissa Zabala Lorete	81.08
	Maria Leah Llorin Regalado	81.08
20.	Michelle Fantiyao Chungait	81.00
	Benjamin Jr German Francisco	81.00
	Johanna Pauline Henares Lazo	81.00
	Jomar Enverga Marcelo	81.00
	Cheryll Anne Gatchalian Mariano,	81.00
	Salvador IV Abetong Rivera	81.00

(See Inq7.net and tomorrow's issue of the INQUIRER for the complete list of new doctors)

Lecture on Tang dynasty ceramics

JOHN Guy, curator of the Indian and Southeast Asian section of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, will give a lecture on the "Belitung Trove" of Chinese ceramic undersea treasures on Feb. 28 at 5.30 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue.

The Belitung Trove, recovered in a shipwreck on the seas off Belitung, Indonesia, in 1998, was part of a huge cargo of eighth-century porcelain that traders from China's Tang dynasty had put aboard an Arab dhow for export to India and what is now Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. It is the only shipwreck to be dated to the Tang period (618-907 AD).

Guy is a guest of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines. The lecture is free to members of the society. The fee for non-members is P150 and for students P50.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Verbal order of dismissal is a nullity—Section 1, Rule 120 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure, mandates that a judgment must be written in the official language, personally and directly prepared by the judge and signed by him and shall contain clearly and distinctly a statement of the facts and the law upon which it is based. The rule applies to a final order dismissing a criminal case grounded on the violation of the rights of the accused to a speedy trial. A verbal judgment or order of dismissal is a violation of the provision; hence, such order is, in contemplation of law, not in esse, therefore, ineffective. Justice Nario failed to issue a written resolution dismissing the criminal cases for failure of the prosecution to submit its report on the reinvestigation of the cases within the sixty-day period fixed by the graft court. Moreover, the verbal order was rejected by majority vote of the members of the Sandiganbayan Special Division. In fine, there has been no valid and effective order of dismissal of the cases. The Sandiganbayan cannot then be faulted for issuing the assailed resolutions. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Corpuz vs Sandiganbayan, G. R. No. 162214, November 11, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

Old boxer's final round wins forgiveness

From page A1

her a better life," said Cordova, who is now based in Victoria, Australia.

He said he would bring Josie back to Manilà to meet her mother Mercedes, whom she has not seen for 29 years.

Josie is the only daughter among three siblings. Her brothers, Wilmer and Wilfredo, are now in their 40s.

Career path

Cordova said he had been a "bad boy" for leaving his family in the Philippines when he went to Australia to pursue a boxing career.

He began fighting professionally on April 12, 1961, knocking out his opponent at the Araneta Coliseum in Manila, according to boxrec.com website. He later fought in Davao, Cebu and Bacolod cities, rising to become the top contender for the Philippine bantamweight title.

Cordova fought twice in Tokyo in 1969, but lost both bouts.

It was in early 1970 when he left his wife and children in Sagay City, 82 km northeast of this city, to continue boxing in Melbourne, Australia. At that time, Josie was only 2 years old.

Losing streak

After winning only once in his last nine professional fights as a featherweight boxer in Australia and New Zealand, Cordova finally hung up his gloves with a record of 23 fights, including seven wins, 12 losses and three draws, according to boxrec.com.

Cordova worked as a machine operator at a factory in Victoria, Australia, and is now retired. He married a Filipino teacher, Yolanda Castillo, with whom he has two sons, Wilfred and Reynard.

Cordova said he had been sending money regularly to his wife and children through his family, but Mercedes had not received any amount.

Lacking financial support, Mercedes decided to leave Sagay and look for a job in Manila. She left her three children in the care of a sister, Thelma, in Barangay Lopez Jaena, Sagay. Josie was only 5 then.

Thelma later died and the three children were brought to different relatives.

When she was 15, Josie ran away from home and lived on the streets, alone and hungry. Thugs would even urinate on her as she lay on the sidewalk.

Good Samaritan

A kind-hearted resident of Bacolod, Angela Mahinay, took pity on Josie and asked her to live with her. Eventually, Josie found a job as a housemaid.

Mahinay noted that Josie was not comfortable with men and appeared to have gone through a lot of bad experiences.

Josie said that she had been working in different homes, taking care of children, doing the laundry or cleaning.

She said she had learned to survive on her own and was resigned to the fact that her parents had left her to fend for herself.

Conscience-stricken

A near-death experience in 1992 caused by ulcers prompted Cordova to seek out the family he left in the Philippines.

"As I was praying in my room, I felt the presence of the Virgin Mary and I could smell the scent of roses, and I realized that I had to find my family in the Philippines to make things right," he said.

The old boxer went back to the Philippines and found Mercedes and the boys in Manila. He bought her a house and gave the boys a jeepney that they could use for business.

He said he had heard all kinds of stories about what had become of Josie, including one that she had died. But when he prayed, he said he could hear his daughter's voice from a distance, which he took as a sign that she was still alive.

"When one prays and asks for forgiveness so he can make his life right, those prayers are answered," Cordova said.

Cordova had been coming to the Philippines several times in search for Josie. In January, he went to Negros Occidental after he heard reports that she was there.

On Monday, he met with Gov. Joseph Marañon to seek his help. The governor was once mayor of Sagay, where the Cordovas used to live.

"Help me find my daughter. I need to seek her forgiveness," he said. "I will not have peace of mind until I find her."

Media help

His appeal was picked up by local media. Friends of Fely Cariedo, Josie's employer, heard about Cordova's search and called up radio dyRL. The station, in turn, informed Cordova about Josie's whereabouts in Bacolod.

Cordova and Wilmer went to Cariedo's house on Lizares Extension to see Josie.

When he saw his daughter, Cordova dropped to his knees. "I cried and knelt in front of my daughter and told her I did not want to force her if she did not want to come," he said.

He told Josie that he blamed himself for leaving her and asked her for forgiveness and a chance to make things right for her.

At first, Josie admitted that she did not want to go with the father she barely knew.

"I have become so used to taking care of myself. I know how my parents look like but I barely know them," she said.

But after seeing her father pleading forgiveness, Josie's heart softened. She said she finally accepted the fact that she still had a family and was thankful to God for this.

Perhaps, she said, she would now feel the love of the parents she had lost as she was then too young to remember what it was like having them.

In the afternoon, father and daughter went to the house of Mercedes' cousin, Analee de Goma, at Villa Angela Subdivision here.

Tears of joy

Analee called Mercedes in Manila and told her that they did not find Josie but someone who knew her daughter would speak to her. Mercedes was crying when her daughter got on the phone.

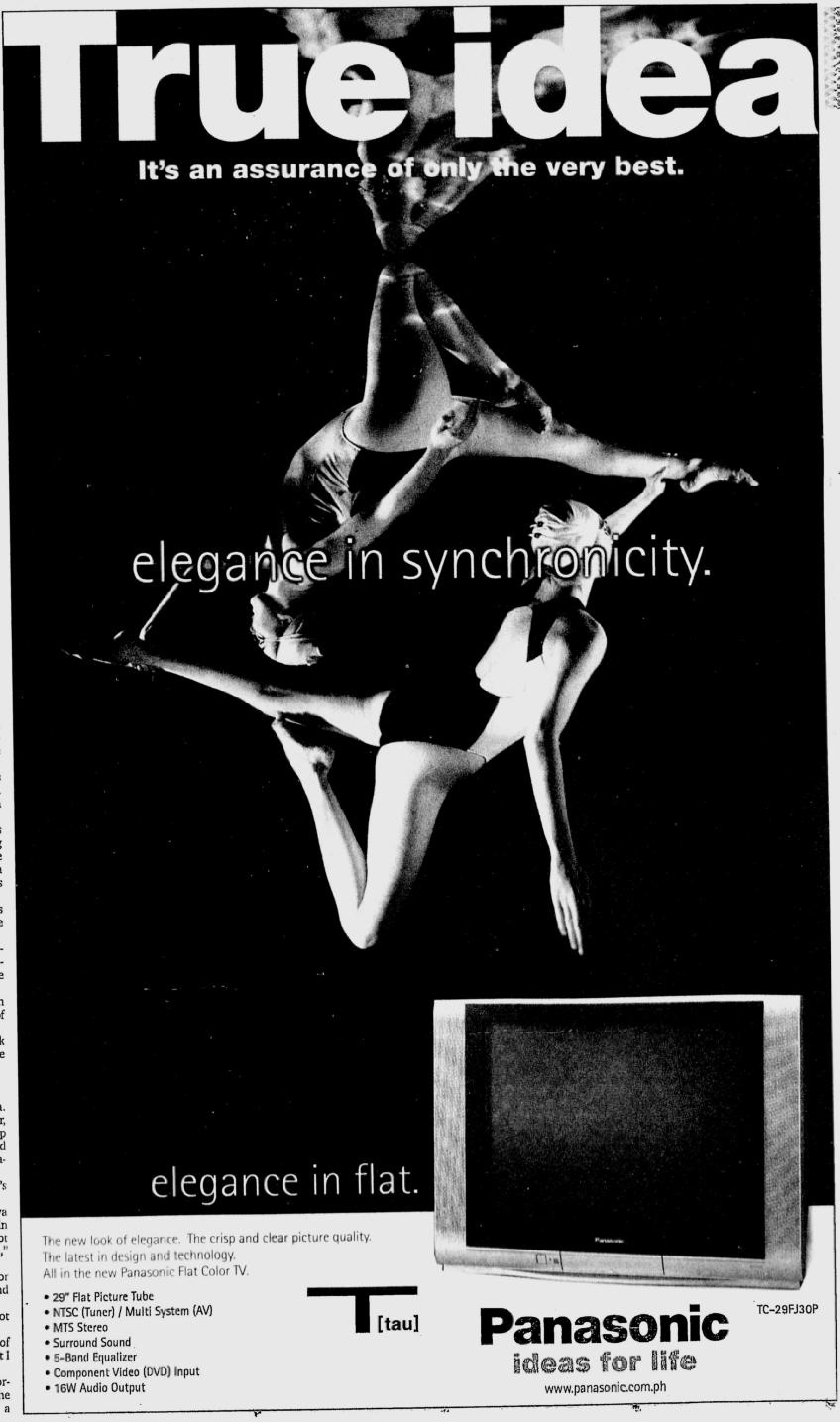
When she told her that she was Josie, Mercedes' cries became tears of joy.

Yesterday, the Cordovas went to Barangay Lopez Jaena in Sagay to visit relatives and to attend a thanksgiving Mass for Josie's return.

The boxer said he would now storm the heavens with prayers, this time to thank God for giving him back Josie.

RITES of remembrance of the liberation of the Los Baños POW camp which imprisoned civilians and soldiers starting 1942 inside the Baker Hall, a gym-turned internment camp inside the Philippine Agricultural College, now the UP-Los Baños. They were liberated by Filipino guerrillas on Feb.23, 1945.

RAFFY LERMA


True idea
It's an assurance of only the very best.
elegance in synchronicity.
elegance in flat.

The new look of elegance. The crisp and clear picture quality.
The latest in design and technology.
All in the new Panasonic Flat Color TV.

- 29" Flat Picture Tube
- NTSC (Tuner) / Multi System (AV)
- MTS Stereo
- Surround Sound
- 5-Band Equalizer
- Component Video (DVD) Input
- 16W Audio Output

T [tau]

TC-29FJ30P

Panasonic
ideas for life
www.panasonic.com.ph

Cops arrest 4 more for Makati blast

From page A1

Delfin told the INQUIRER that Maidan was a key part of the terrorist effort coordinated by the JI.

According to Delfin, Maidan is believed to be keeping at least three kilos of the explosive TNT that the JI is supposedly intending to use in bomb attacks in Metro Manila.

The cache is part of an estimated 100 kilos of TNT that the group had shipped to Manila from Zamboanga City more than two years ago, Delfin said.

He said police intelligence operatives managed to confiscate 80 kilos during a series of raids last summer in which four suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf were arrested.

Delfin said among the four was "Kosovo," who was allegedly part of the Abu Sayyaf "cell" that planned and carried out the bombing of SuperFerry 14 in February last year. He is detained at the PNP custodial center in Camp Crame.

Face to face

Military sources said the bandits-turned-state-witnesses had a "face to face" meeting with Baharan and Trinidad late Tuesday at Camp Aguinaldo, and that they talked in their native tongue.

Velasco showed reporters a list of wanted Abu Sayyaf members from the US Department of Defense and the Philippine government, which included a picture of a younger looking Baharan.

He said the two men were the subject of a warrant of arrest issued by Basilan Judge Danilo Bucoy, for their supposed involvement in the Abu Sayyaf raid on the Sipadan resort in Malaysia in 2000, which led to the abduction of 21 persons, mostly European tourists.

Baharan was named in the warrant, and the two state witnesses identified Trinidad as one of the John Does.

Velasco offered Baharan and Trinidad the services of a public attorney but they refused, saying they would have their own lawyer.

He told them that they had 15 days to file counter-affidavits, and that they would have to remain in government custody because of the outstanding warrant issued on Oct. 7, 2004.

'It's them'

An inquest for Baharan's supposed illegal possession of firearms and explosives was also held at the DOJ. Velasco said the case would probably be filed today in the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court.

The 20-year-old conductor of the RRCG bus had positively identified Baharan and Trinidad as the two men who insisted on getting off before the bomb exploded.

While he did not notice any of the two carrying a package into the bus, the conductor said he remembered them because he had thought they were holdup men.

"It's them. I noticed them because I thought they knew each other. They boarded the bus together, but they sat apart. *Ramdam na ramdam ko yun* (I could really sense it)," the conductor had said.

When asked by reporters to comment on the charges against them, only Trinidad spoke.

He said he wanted his family, "who are still looking for [me]," to get in touch with him so that he could have a lawyer.

Noting blood marks on Baharan's forehead and on Trinidad's nape, reporters asked them if they had been tortured.

Baharan hinted that they were roughed up somewhat, moving the tip of his forefinger an inch above his thumb.

Follow-up operations

The hunt for Maidan aka Negro continues after a raid on his supposed hideout in Taguig City on Tuesday proved fruitless.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, chief of the Armed Forces' public information office, refused to say where the follow-up operations were being conducted so as not to compromise the efforts of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

He said the operations were being coordinated with the PNP.

"We are tracking down the supplier of the explosives, who is Maidan alias Negro, Pascual told reporters. "Right now, with the cooperation of the two suspects (Baharan and Trinidad) and in coordination with the police, Isafp operatives are continuing with their operation to [find him]."

Alarmist text messages

Pascual dismissed text messages being passed around that a plot was afoot to bomb a mall and an apartment building in Makati and a department store in Manila. The text messages said a military intelligence officer had confirmed the supposed plot.

"What we need now are the vigilance and alertness of our countrymen down to the barangay level," he said, adding:

"What we need is for us to be vigilant because these [malls] are [the terrorists'] soft targets. But if we have effective security guards, they are going to have difficulty in bringing bombs inside." *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Lawyer mistah sues Ombudsman over GMA graft case

By Armand N. Nocum

A LAWYER claiming to be a key player in the Edsa uprising of February 1986 yesterday filed an administrative complaint against Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and his deputies and accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of hypocrisy.

Mariano R. Santiago, who claimed to have been "an active participant in the takeover of PTV Channel 4 (now ABS-CBN)" during Edsa I said that unless the Ombudsman acted on the graft case he had filed against the President, her call on the people to fight graft would always be held in doubt.

He said the people were "disgusted" with Ms Arroyo's "hypocritical announcement of her call to fight corruption because she and the members of her Cabinet must be cleared of corruption [themselves]."

Santiago, a former head of the defunct Bureau of Land Transportation and a 1967 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, filed the administrative complaint against Marcelo a day after Ms Arroyo mobilized the public to fight graft, saying it was "the legacy of Edsa."

Last year, Santiago filed a graft complaint against the President and members of her Cabinet for allegedly using P1.6 billion of the Road User's Tax (RUT) for the production of big billboards for her election campaign.

Among those named co-respondents in the complaint were former Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

In his 5-page complaint dated March 24, 2004, Santiago said the alleged use of the RUT was illegal because the tax was to be used "solely for the maintenance of roads and drainage, installation of efficient and adequate traffic lights and road safety devices, and air pollution control."

Now, after almost a year, Santiago said he had yet to hear a word from the Ombudsman.

He said this inaction violated the constitutional provision stating that the antigraft office should "act promptly" on complaints.

Moreover, the Code of Conduct of Public Officials states that the Ombudsman and his deputies should act within 15 days on any documents brought before them, he said.

No end to corruption

"Unless the respondents perform their constitutional duty to run after grafters in government, especially the high and the mighty led by [Ms Arroyo], the people shall continue to lose faith in the government and there will be no end to the systematic corruption in the cash-strapped government," Santiago said in his complaint.

He urged Marcelo "not to betray public trust simply because he is an appointee of the President."

Unless the Ombudsman acts on his complaint, the government will be hard-put to ask the people to pay more taxes, including the value-added tax, "to replenish the cash illegally disbursed during the elections," he said.

Santiago also called on Marcelo to "administratively sanction himself and/or his deputies for this obviously deliberate shelving of a very high-profile complaint, to the prejudice of this complainant and all taxpayers."

Lack of lawyers

Contacted by the INQUIRER for comment, Marcelo promised to look into Santiago's complaint.

He attributed the seeming inaction of the Office of the Ombudsman to its lack of "adequate lawyers."

"[Santiago] must bear in mind that we are severely under-resource," Marcelo said. He said his office had only 50 lawyers attending to thousands of graft cases.

Marcelo said that in 2004 alone, 13,000 graft cases were filed before the Office of the Ombudsman.

He said Santiago should help them lobby in Congress for more lawyers, investigators and key personnel. As it is, they are already working hard to make up for the lack of personnel, he said.

"I'm like Sun cellular—I work seven days a week or at a minimum of 80 hours a week," said Marcelo, who is known to stay in his office past midnight and who reports for work even on weekends.

Edsa began with Ninoy Aquino

From page A1

the Manila international airport on Aug. 21, 1983. The airport has since been renamed in his honor.

Commissioned by the Ninoy Aquino Movement led by Heherson Alvarez, the statue was first brought to the United States where it was unveiled and blessed by Rev. Fr. Joseph O'Hara in New York.

Moving from site to site

On Aug. 4, 1984, the statue was brought to Manila by Dr. Alejandro Roces in time for the first death anniversary of Aquino. But the statue was held at the Bureau of Customs for days, prompting protests from followers and admirers of the fallen opposition leader.

Businessman Jose Antonio Gonzalez then took the statue and had it installed in his building, the Mondragon Building along Buendia, Makati.

In August 1995, Gonzalez donated the statue to the City of Manila through Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim.

In February 2004, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza donated the statue to the Spirit of Edsa Foundation, which started scouting for a permanent and fitting venue for the statue.

Castrillo

A spot at the back of the People Power Monument was initially chosen. "But it looked minuscule," Carrion said.

The foundation also consulted sculptor Ed Castrillo, the author of the People Power Monument, who did not even think twice about having another work of art beside his masterpiece.

Castrillo made a sketch indicating where to put the bronze statue, Carrion added.

On Friday, former President Cory Aquino will officially unveil the bronze statue for public viewing.

2 presidents in one day

The early morning unveiling ceremony will kick off the celebration of the last day of the Feb- 22-25, 1986 People Power uprising that swept Aquino into power.

On Feb. 25, 1986, a Tuesday, Aquino took her oath as President at the Club Filipino in Greenhills. Almost simultaneously in Malacañang, Marcos also proclaimed himself as the duly elected President in the snap elections held weeks earlier.

It was a rare moment in history for a country to have two presidents.

By nightfall, however, Marcos and his family had to abandon Malacañang, barely escaping the wrath of thousands of ordinary Filipinos who stormed the grand palace and found an astounding collection of shoes, clothes, toiletries and jewelry belonging to Imelda Marcos and tons of documents that afforded a glimpse of the hidden treasures of the dictator.

MOMENT of triumph for Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos on the eve of the Marcoses' flight out of the country on Feb. 24, 1986.

PHOTO FROM THE BOOK PEOPLE'S POWER

2 Edsas the same: No real change of heart and mind

From page A1

her father Ninoy had just been shot to death in Manila.

It was an Aug. 21, 1983 that Kris and her family—as well as all Filipinos the world over—will never forget.

The outrage Filipinos felt over the brute killing of the No. 1 Marcos oppositionist Ninoy Aquino was monumental.

Filipinos had peacefully abided by Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law in 1972 and allowed him to follow what he declared was a program toward a New Society.

Millions at funeral

But this killing negated the entire Marcosian dream and millions turned out to attend Ninoy's funeral from Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City to the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

The Marcos media paid little attention to the funeral, which angered the people more. So when Mr. & Ms. Magazine came out with a special issue on the funeral, they fought and bought half a million copies and encouraged the weekly publication of Mr. & Ms. Special Edition to document all the demonstrations against Marcos for the next three years.

In late 1985, the Agrava Commission that investigated the Ninoy killing exonerated Marcos' cousin, Gen. Fabian Ver. Marcos then announced the holding of a national presidential election to be held on Feb. 12, 1986.

With the opposition's fielding of Ninoy's widow Cory supported only by the so-called (by the Marcos information minister) "mosquito press," the need for another daily newspaper (aside from Joe Burgos' Malaya) was filled by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Marcos cheated

Marcos cheated, of course. But after he announced his victory, Cory countered with a boycott of the Marcos newspapers, Bulletin, Daily Express and Journal and his business cronies San Miguel and Rustan's.

The boycott was well on its way when Marcos discovered a plot to seize Malacañang by Juan Ponce Enrile (as defense secretary, he was the implementor of martial law in its early days) and Enrile's security chief Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

Anticipating their arrest, Enrile and Honasan notified the local and world press, then with Gen. Fidel Ramos (Marcos' cousin but an opposer) they all barricaded themselves at Camp Aguinaldo.

Civilian support

With Jaime Cardinal Sin sounding the call to support them, civilians, nuns and priests gathered by the millions at Edsa near the camp and all the way to Guadalupe in relay for four days and nights, starting Feb. 22.

When Marcos finally sent military tanks to subdue them, the people greeted them with flowers, rosaries and religious images.

The tanks turned back and the people surged all the way to Malacañang. There, on the night of Feb. 26, Marcos abandoned his post and was flown to Hawaii with his family where he stayed in exile until he died.

Today is the 19th anniversary of that victory of the Filipino people over tyranny—the anniversary of People Power.

Definitive history

A group was formed in 1996 to make sure that we do not forget Edsa 1. Calling itself the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, its first project was to publish a definitive history, a blow-by-blow account of the four days of Edsa I.

This is now out of print but preparations are being made to reprint enough copies at popular prices for the coming 20th anniversary of Edsa I in 2006.

The whole book has four chapters, one for each of the four Edsa days, an hour-by-hour, moment-to-moment narration by Angela Stuart Santiago. It puts together reports from 12 books and 16 periodicals.

This "Chronology of a Revolution" has yet to be outdone in objectivity and comprehensiveness. (A short time later, the FWWPP commissioned Angela Stuart Santiago to rewrite "Chronology" in Filipino, which was later published as "Himagsikan sa Edsa.")

To duet with "Chronology of A Revolution," the FWWPP asked 10 scholarly writers—each one an authority in his field—to assess what had happened a decade since.

Scholarly writers

The writers are Jose V. Abueva (A Global Perspective), Belinda A. Aquino (Politics and Government), Amando Doronila (Foreign Policy), Felipe Miranda (The Military), Ma. Serena Diokno (Peace and Human Rights), Rigoberto Tiglao (The Economy), Ma. Cynthia Banzon Bautista (Quality of Life), Fr. John J. Carroll (Church and State), Melinda Quintos-de Jesus (The Media) and Joel Rocamora (A Personal View).

Lorna Kalaw-Tirol edited this companion piece titled "Looking Back, Looking Forward."

Aside from this two-volume set, the FWWPP has also published Conrado de Quiros' "Dead Aim: How Marcos Ambushed Philippine Democracy." Here, the celebrated INQUIRER columnist recounts in stark detail how Marcos planned martial law.

The FWWPP has likewise produced two video documentaries: the multi-awarded "Batas Militar" and "Lakas Sambayanan." "Batas Militar" executive-produced and directed by Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala from a script by the late Lito Tiongson, was a groundbreaking feature-length video on martial law.

"Lakas Sambayanan" chronicles the emergence of People Power throughout Philippine history. The script was written by Jose "Pete" F. Lacaba and directed by noted documentarist Edmundo "Butch" Nolasco Jr. "Lakas Sambayanan" is narrated on screen by award-winning actor Cesar Montano.

Unfortunately, in 1998 Filipinos elected a movie star named Joseph Estrada who turned out to be an alcoholic, a gambler, a womanizer unfit for Malacañang.

It took three years to oust Marcos. It took only three months to oust Estrada.

More of the same

Edsa II is still fresh in the mind of the reader to make it unnecessary to repeat here.

But the two Edsas are the same: A real change in the hearts and minds of the citizenry is not to be found.

Why is this so? How come the country's problems remain unchanged, if they have not gotten worse? An attempt at analysis and a solution shall be made tomorrow.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Look who's talking about ...

From page A1

Or, something not to her liking.

A "clique" of "gangster-minded oddballs" has elected themselves leaders of the UNO, treating the opposition ranks as if they were members of a "street gang," according to the daughter of the late dictator President Ferdinand Marcos.

"Things are not good and getting worse by the day," she said in a strongly worded statement written on her signature pink press stationery.

When sought for comment, Marcos refused to identify the members of the UNO who have earned her ire.

"*Chika lang yan*. But I'm now bored with the opposition. There's no more direction," Marcos said in a phone interview.

Informed about Marcos' statement, House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) declined to comment on what's eating Marcos.

MARCOS: Bored with the opposition

ESCUDERO: We're trying our best.

"While I have the highest regard for her, opposition members should avoid making statements like that in public because these are not helping the opposition," Escudero said.

Committee of five

Escudero earlier said the UNO was being led by a committee of five, which includes him, former President Joseph Estrada, Horacio "Boy" Morales, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

It didn't sit well with Marcos that she was not included in Escudero's enumeration of UNO leaders, according to the opposition grapevine.

In her statement, Marcos said: "The few people who have elected themselves to be leaders of the UNO are handling the group like it's a street gang."

Pressed whether the opposition was in "total disarray" as Marcos claimed, Escudero said: "Not true. We're trying our best."

Marcos pointed to a "pervading demoralization" inside the opposition.

"Estrada's blueprint for strengthening the opposition went haywire because of a clique manipulating things inside the UNO," she said.

Ignoring other groups

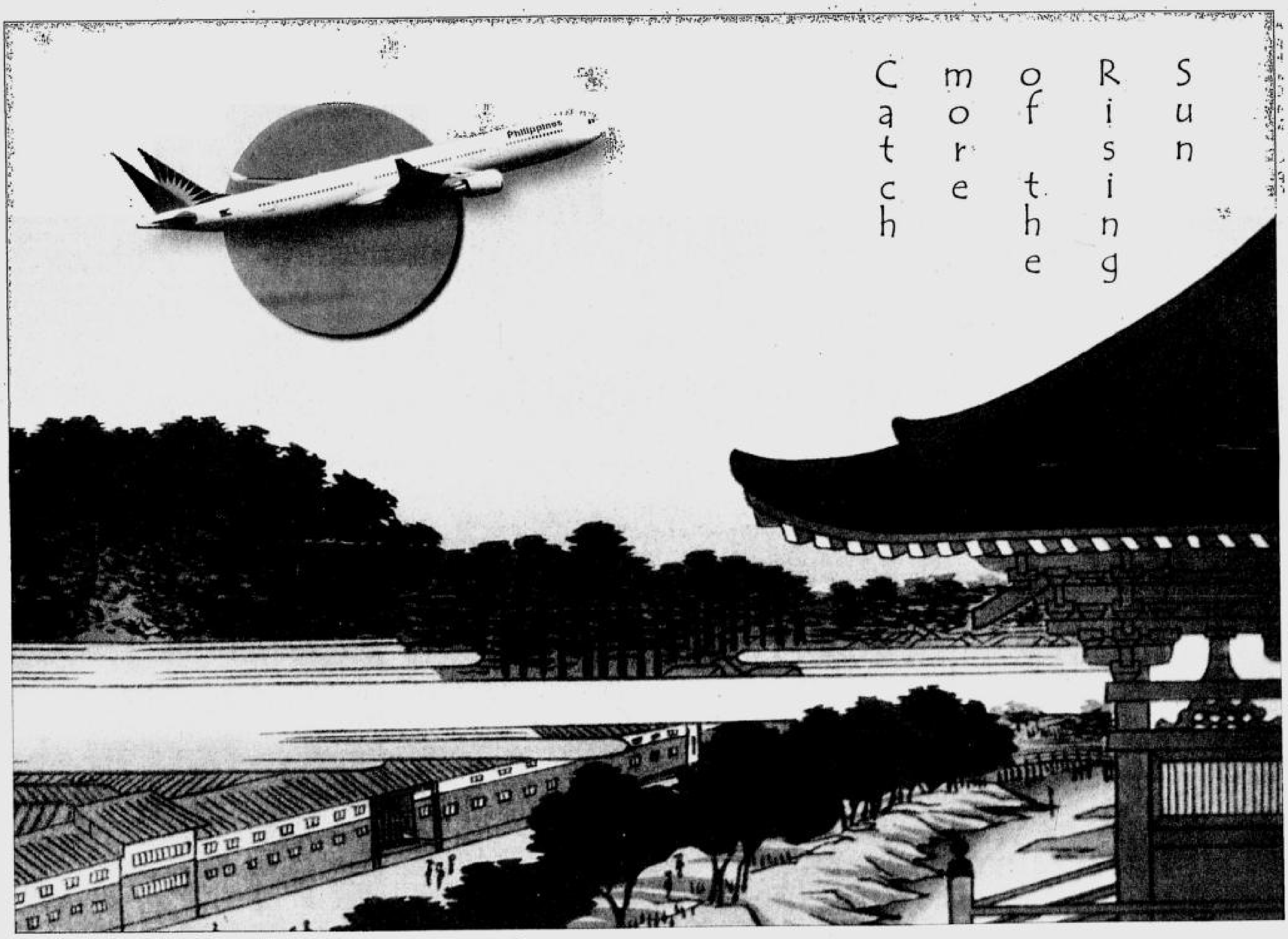
Marcos said this clique was "ignoring other groups" and its members were "content [with] patrolling the boundaries of their own petty fiefdoms."

"Even old allies are struck down if perceived to be a threat to their self interests," she said.

"I just hope the gangster-minded oddballs in the UNO will shape up in time or better yet, take their acts somewhere else," she added.

JASMIN FIGUERO
We come to the C^3 Fam

HIT THE MARK. President Arroyo with archery champ Jasmin Figueroa visits a call center in Eastwood City, Libis to applaud the job-generating contribution of the call center industry to the economy. EDWIN BACASMAS


Catch more of the Rising Sun

Nagoya. Now four flights weekly.

Now, fly from Manila to Nagoya and back, in the comfort of Philippine Airlines' wide body Airbus A330-300. Home of the Nagoya Castle, Atsuta Grand Shrine and Tokugawa Art Museum in Japan's fourth largest city. So, schedule your trip to Nagoya, the fifth destination of Philippine Airlines in Japan, with four flights weekly into Central Japan International Airport.

Earn double Mabuhay Miles when you fly Manila-Nagoya-Manila from March 1 to May 31, 2005.

Call Philippine Airlines Reservations at 855-8888 or your travel agent.

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com

Breakfast with Apes
Lunch with Lions
Dinner with Sharks
Shopping with your Wife

See how different species enjoy their favorite activity!

Get in touch with nature. Call your favorite travel agent now!

UNIQUELY Singapore
visitsingapore.com

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN: World in danger of bird flu pandemic

HO CHI MINH CITY—The world is overdue an influenza pandemic and it must act swiftly to prevent one being triggered by bird flu now endemic in parts of Asia where it has killed 46 people, UN officials said on Wednesday.

The world usually had a flu pandemic every 20 or 30 years, but it has been 40 since the last one.

"The world is now in the gravest possible danger of a pandemic," Shigeru Omi, the head of the World Health Organization in Asia, said at a bird-flu conference in Vietnam, the country hardest hit by the H5N1 virus.

Omi said it was "highly likely" the bird flu virus that swept through large parts of Asia from the end of 2003 would be the source of the next one, unless concerted action was taken.

Joseph Domenech of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization called on rich countries to do more.

"If they don't do more, sooner or later the problem could appear in their place," he told reporters in Ho Chi Minh City, home to 10 million people and close to the Mekong river delta where Vietnam's latest outbreaks began in December.

"The ball is on their side," he said.

The latest outbreak in Vietnam has killed 13 people. All, like earlier victims, appear to have contracted it from direct contact with sick birds.

But what these experts fear is the H5N1 virus could get into a human or animal with a human flu virus and mutate into a strain that could sweep through a world population with no immunity and kill millions.

At the first bird flu summit in Bangkok last year, experts spoke confidently about eradicating the virus.

They now say it could take many years to eliminate and a huge effort is needed just to contain a disease that has jumped to a range of animals including cats, leopards and now flies.

Omi said Tuesday's news that Japanese researchers had found flies infected with bird flu last year showed the virus was "versatile and resilient."

The conference, which ends on Friday, will review how Asian governments have fared against the stubborn virus and plot a battle plan.

Bird flu has already devastated poultry flocks in worst-hit Vietnam and Thailand, where most people live in the countryside and keep chickens, which are often free to wander and mingle with people and other livestock.

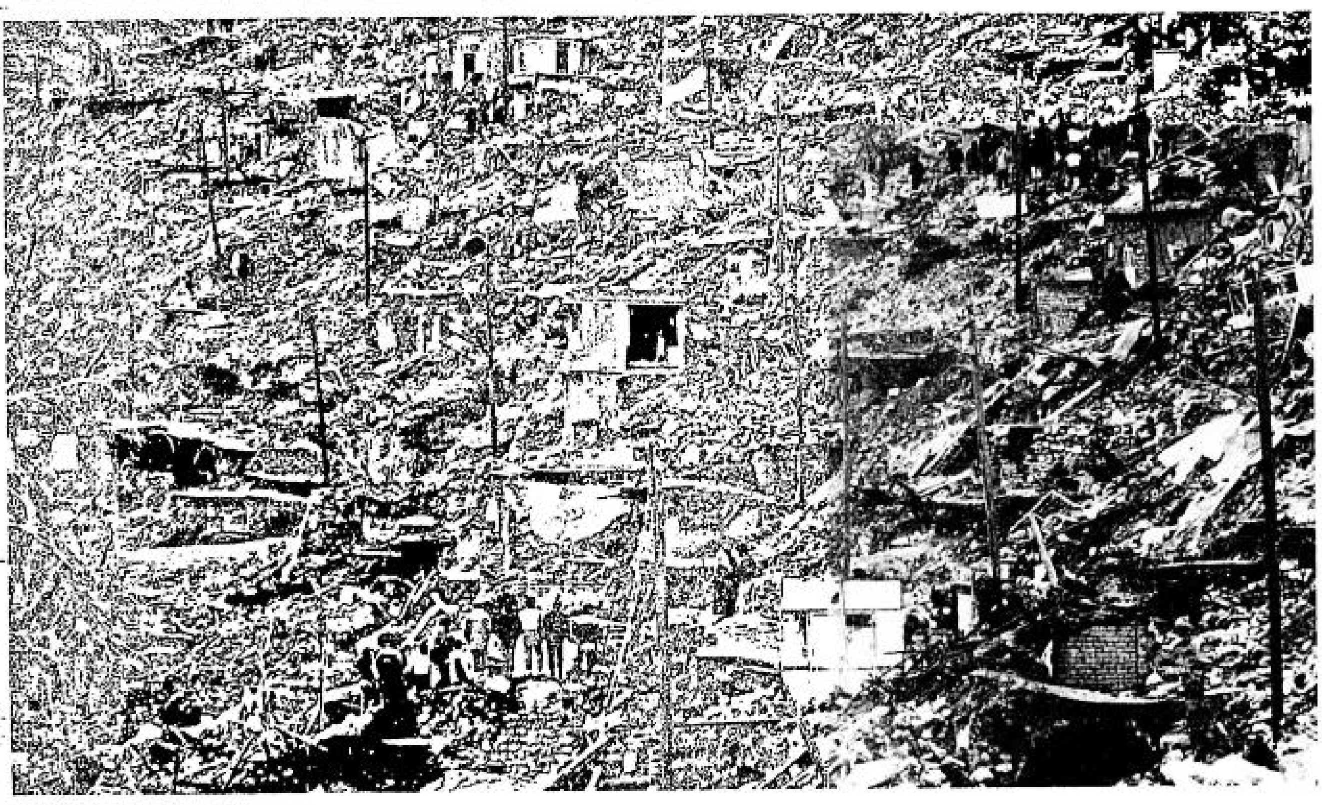
Nearly 140 million birds have been slaughtered or died in the Asian epidemic, and the financial cost is already up to $10 billion, according to some estimates.

Domenech said affected countries will need hundreds of millions of dollars from donors to sustain a prolonged fight against the disease.

Host Vietnam, where bird flu resurfaced in 35 of 64 provinces, has ramped up surveillance systems and imposed tough restrictions on poultry movements.

But like many poor countries hit by bird flu, it has limited knowledge of the virus, its veterinary staff need training and its labs are poorly equipped.

"In order to prevent and control the disease efficiently, international cooperation should be strengthened," Vietnam's Agriculture Minister Cao Duc Phat told the conference. *Reuters*



NATURE'S WRATH

The village of Hotkan, some 40 km from the city of Zarand in Iran, was destroyed by a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4. The quake flattened villages in the mountains of central Iran, killing at least 370 people and injuring hundreds. AP

Lebanon rejects calls for Syrian withdrawal

BEIRUT—Lebanon dismissed Tuesday an EU-US call for Syrian troops to leave the country immediately, while the opposition appealed to the world community to take concrete action to force Syria out.

As Lebanon's judiciary launched an inquiry into the assassination of ex-premier Rafiq Hariri, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Hammoud said the transatlantic call for an immediate Syrian withdrawal was "nothing new."

US President George W. Bush and EU leaders have demanded the immediate withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

With the pressure building on the pro-Damascus regime to find Hariri's killers, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said there was a "high level of suspicion" that Syria was involved and urged an independent investigation.

But Hammoud point-blank refused to discuss an EU demand for an international inquiry into Hariri's killing, when questioned by reporters Tuesday.

Instead, he stressed that the Lebanese judicial authorities "were leading" the investigation, to which the UN Security Council had appointed an international committee to assist.

Since Hariri's murder eight days ago, the opposition has been riding a huge wave of popular support for its campaign to end Syria's political influence and for a withdrawal of its troops stationed on Lebanese soil for almost 30 years.

"Lebanon has been taken hostage... by a terrorist Lebanese regime backed by the Syrians," leading opposition figure Druze MP Walid Jumblatt told the French newspaper 20 Minutes.

"Its liberation could take years, and we cannot obtain it on our own."

"Is the international community really exerting pressure on Syria? I am not certain," he said, echoing fears among the opposition that no tangible steps have yet been taken against Syria besides verbal warnings. *AFP*

British queen won't attend Charles-Camilla wedding

LONDON—Queen Elizabeth II has announced she would not attend the April 8 civil wedding of her son, Prince Charles, to his longtime companion Camilla Parker Bowles.

"The queen will not be attending the civil ceremony because she is aware that the prince and Mrs. Parker Bowles wanted to keep the occasion low-key," said a spokesperson for Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

The palace said the British sovereign would however attend a subsequent blessing and prayer service after the wedding, led by the head of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

"The queen and the rest of the royal family will, of course, be going to the service of dedication at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle," the statement continued.

The announcement is the latest blow to a wedding ceremony that has already faced a series of setbacks since it was announced on Feb. 10.

One historian declared the queen's decision to stay away "unprecedented," while royal photographer Arthur Edwards dubbed it "another snub" against the prince.

"The one thing (Charles) wanted was to get this wedding over and done with so that (Parker Bowles) would not be snubbed. Now it seems his own mother is snubbing him and his wedding. It just seems to go on and I just wonder what next is going to hit the couple," Edwards said.

But a palace spokeswoman stressed this was not an insult by the queen, whose recent public backing for the union between her son and his lover has helped warm the public to the match.

Parker Bowles was widely seen as a major cause of the breakup of Charles' first marriage to the late Princess Diana, who died in a car crash in 1997 but has remained hugely popular.

"The queen is attending the service of dedication and paying for the reception—this is not a snub," the spokesperson said.

Clarence House, the official residence of Prince Charles, said the couple was "happy with the decision."

Charles' sons from his marriage to the late Princess Diana— Prince William and Prince Harry—as well as Parker Bowles' children from her prior marriage, Tom and Laura, are still expected to attend the Windsor town hall ceremony.

But the Daily Mirror tabloid reported Wednesday that Charles' father Prince Philip, his brothers princes Andrew and Edward and sister Princess Anne also would stay away.

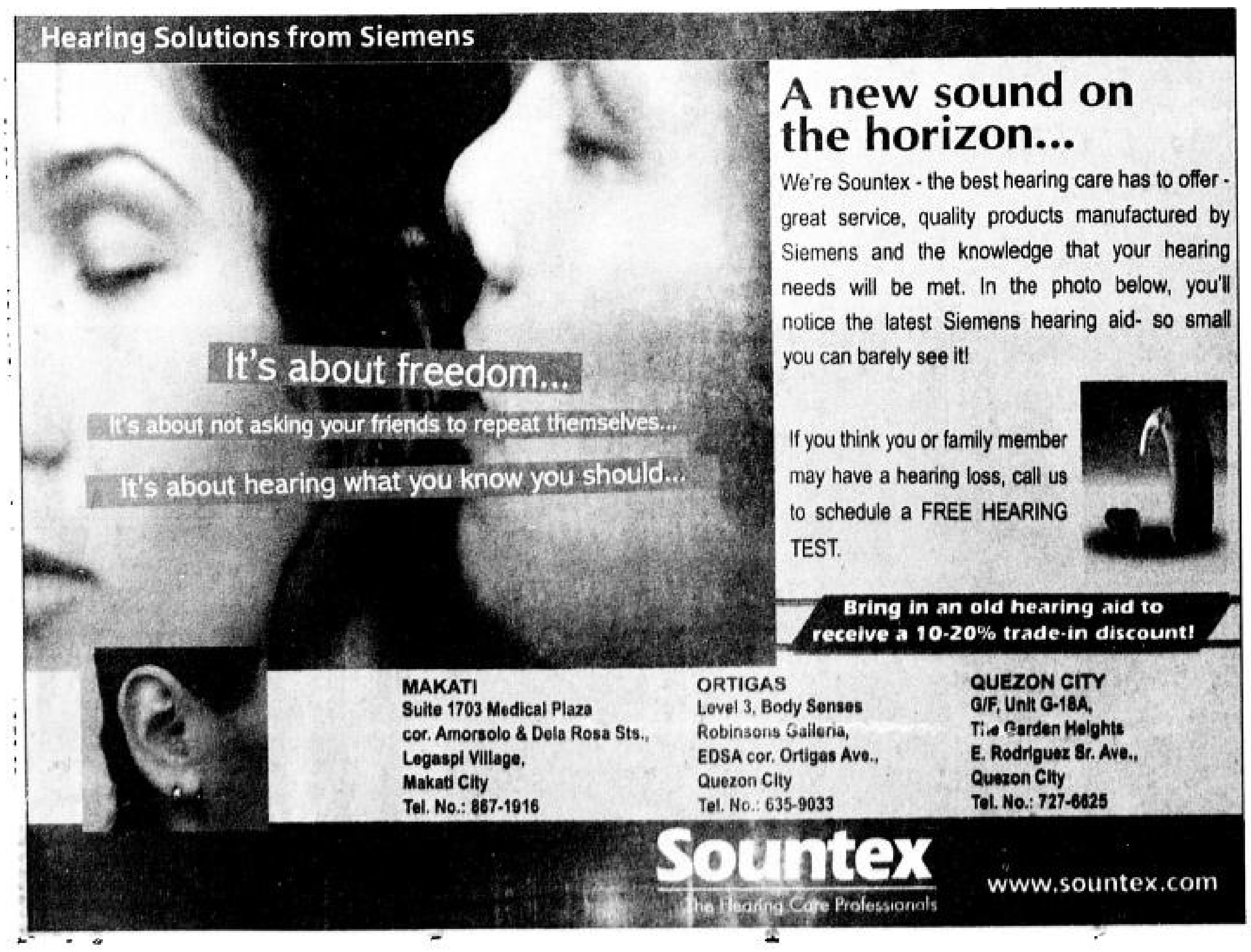
Charles, 56, and Parker Bowles, 57, who have known each other for more than 30 years and dated on and off, cannot marry in a church ceremony because they have both previously married and been divorced.

Initial plans called for a civil ceremony to be held inside Windsor Castle, one of the queen's residences west of London, but those had to be scrapped because the venue is unlicensed.

Since licensing the palace for a civil wedding would have also made the royal castle "regularly available", for three years, to other British couples who want to marry there, the couple moved down the road to the town hall.

But the queen finds the Guildhall too "common," according to a close source to the family quoted in The Sun tabloid. *AFP*

QUEEN Elizabeth in a June 2, 2003 photo with Prince Charles during a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation at Westminster Abbey in London. REUTERS


It's about freedom...
It's about not asking your friends to repeat themselves...
It's about hearing what you know you should...

Hearing Solutions from Siemens

A new sound on the horizon...

We're Sountex - the best hearing care has to offer - great service, quality products manufactured by Siemens and the knowledge that your hearing needs will be met. In the photo below, you'll notice the latest Siemens hearing aid- so small you can barely see it!

If you think you or family member may have a hearing loss, call us to schedule a FREE HEARING TEST.

Bring in an old hearing aid to receive a 10-20% trade-in discount!

MAKATI
Suite 1703 Medical Plaza
cor. Amorsolo & Dela Rosa Sts.,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City
Tel. No.: 867-1916

ORTIGAS
Level 3, Body Senses
Robinsons Galleria,
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.,
Quezon City
Tel. No.: 635-9033

QUEZON CITY
G/F, Unit G-18A,
The Garden Heights
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.,
Quezon City
Tel. No.: 727-6825

Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
www.sountex.com

Shiite leader poised to become Iraqi PM

BAGHDAD—The head of a Shiite religious party with links to Iran was poised to become Iraq's prime minister as US President George W. Bush won European backing for a Nato training mission in Iraq.

Ibrahim Jaafari was picked Tuesday as candidate of the United Iraqi Alliance list that swept to victory in January elections, confirming the long-oppressed Shiite majority's rise to power and the decline of the Sunni minority that dominated under Saddam.

Jaafari, a 58-year-old doctor and currently one of two vice presidents, must now be approved by parliament. But with 140 seats in the 275-seat new assembly, the UIA's choice is unlikely to be rejected.

His nomination after a meeting of the Shiite list parties came after Ahmed Chalabi, a maverick secular politician and erstwhile Pentagon favorite, withdrew from the race.

Jaafari immediately said that as prime minister he would make restoring security in the strife-torn country his priority, pointing the finger at Iraq's neighbors.

"We will start with security because it's a problem that gives no respite to citizens," he said, adding that "interference by neighboring countries in the realm of security must be resolved."

Both Iran, where Jaafari lived in exile for several years, and Syria have been accused of involvement in Iraq's insurgency, charges the two countries strenuously deny.

Jaafari's Hezb al-Dawa al-Islamiyya (Islamic Call Party) quickly re-established itself in the southern Shiite heartland after the March 2003 US-led invasion that ousted Saddam.

Dawa, the oldest Shiite party in Iraq, advocates Islamic reform and modernizing religious institutions, while enjoying the prestige of its past resistance to Saddam's regime.

Its members started carrying out attacks against Baath officials in the 1970s and fully embarked on an armed struggle in the early 1980s, when Jaafari fled to Iran before moving to London in 1989.

Kurdish parties, who won 77 parliamentary seats in last month's vote, have said they would support the Shiite candidate for prime minister in return for its supporting their candidate for the presidency. *AFP*

AMID PROTESTS

Britain unveils tough antiterror legislation

LONDON—Britain's interior minister unveiled a tough antiterror bill Tuesday, warning that the grave threat of attack justified such a radical move despite condemnation from opposition parties and rights advocates.

The proposals give Home Secretary Charles Clarke the potential to put foreign and domestic terrorist suspects under indefinite house arrest on his sole authority.

But to wield such power, Clarke would first have to issue an order to opt out of a clause in the European Convention on Human Rights, which has been incorporated into British law.

Presenting the Prevention of Terrorism Bill to parliament, the minister argued that the exceptional powers were justified because Britain faced unprecedented threats.

"Let no one be of any doubt that there are terrorists here and abroad who want to attack the United Kingdom and its interests," he said.

People who felt that an attack like the Sept. 11 strike had bypassed Britain had a view that was "short-sighted, complacent, ignorant of the facts and potentially cavalier in its disregard to the safety of this country," Clarke continued.

Underscoring the risk of attack, the government released four papers that outlined a series of thwarted terror plots and warned of further dangers.

The plots amounted to clear evidence of a "real threat to British people and British interests" from terrorists affiliated with al-Qaida, said one of the documents.

The Prevention of Terrorism Bill would also enable the home secretary to issue less stringent orders than house arrest, such as banning someone from using a computer or restricting their movement, but the person affected would have the right to appeal to a judge.

Britain is currently holding 10 foreigners suspected of terrorism who have not been charged, and they are now likely to be freed in March. Two others have been released on bail in recent weeks, with one of them placed under house arrest.

The draft legislation sparked major criticism, not only for its substance but also because Clarke announced he hoped to rush it through the House of Commons in just two days—restricting time for parliamentary debate.

The opposition Conservative interior affairs spokesperson, David Davis, said that although the terror threat facing Britain was severe it did not warrant such an infringement on individual rights.

"You are planning to sacrifice essential, long-standing principles of British liberty and justice in a way which may act to reduce that security," Davis said.

The Conservatives and the opposition Liberal Democrats made a rare move of proposing a joint amendment later on Tuesday to try to kill the draft law by suspending further debate.

They said the law gave to the executive "powers that should be exercised by the judiciary" and "wrongly infringes the right to liberty of the individual."

Amnesty International UK director Kate Allen slammed the move as "nothing short of internment at home."

"Today's details cannot disguise the essence of the new bill—the home secretary has reserved the power to place anyone in the United Kingdom under house arrest without charge or trial, based on secret evidence," she said.

But junior Home Office minister Hazel Blears, speaking to BBC television, argued that Britain needed the law because it "faced a significantly different threat than anything we've faced before... As the nature of the terrorist threat changes, we also have to change and adapt." *AFP*

Your fool-proof time record system has finally arrived!
David-Link FingerScan
FREE complete payroll and time management softwares
*worth P50,000
Promo Period is from Jan. 20 to Mar. 20, 2005 only!
Upgraded *David-Link Bioclock III
David-Link Bioclock I
Advantages:
- Finger-driven technology in 1 sec. ID time or less
- Works well with dry, moist or even rough fingertips
- Stand alone capability even without a PC
- 30,000 (Model I) ; 50,000 (Model III) - record storage
- 1,000 (Model I) ; 1,500 (Model III) - user capacity

We also offer Time Recorders, Check Writers, Binding Machines, Laminators, Money Counters, Duplicators & other office equipment.
Tel. nos.: 898-3431 / 898-3432 / 890-5310 / 890-5320 / 890-5327 / 896-7764
website: www.e-davidlink.com e-mail us at: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com

Palestinian parliament to vote on new Cabinet to end crisis

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie presents a revamped government list to parliament for endorsement on Wednesday in an effort to end a crisis that had threatened his job.

Qurie agreed to make sweeping changes to his new Cabinet after it became apparent he would not win approval for the line-up he presented on Monday to a parliament demanding more reformers and fewer members of Yasser Arafat's old guard.

The new list may make it easier for President Mahmoud Abbas to press ahead with a promised overhaul of the Palestinian Authority as he pursues peace efforts with Israel.

An outcry by lawmakers demanding a more significant move away from the corruption-tainted image of the late president Arafat's retinue forced Qurie to postpone the parliamentary vote by two days.

Abbas and a younger generation of pro-reform legislators in his and Qurie's Fatah faction had tried in recent weeks to persuade Qurie to include more newcomers and technocrats.

Qurie met faction members on Tuesday night to finalize a new list. Details were scant but Palestinian officials said they believed there would be around 10 new faces, compared with four in Qurie's first attempt.

Nasser Yousef and Mohammed Dahlan—Abbas loyalists chosen to help him implement his program to reform the Palestinian Authority and its security services—would take posts in the new government as Abbas had hoped, officials said.

Abbas is under pressure from the United States and other international donors to revamp around a dozen often competing security forces.

Qurie was still expected to retain some of his original choices, including Arafat loyalists such as Nabil Shaath, tipped to become deputy prime minister, and Saeb Erekat, a top spokesperson.

"Abu Ala (Qurie) agreed to present a new government... and this is an achievement for the Palestinian Legislative Council," Fatah lawmaker Hatem Abdel-Qader said.

In Gaza, Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed wing of Fatah that has been behind attacks on Israelis, urged Abbas to sack Qurie, who was appointed by Arafat in 2003.

Prospects for peacemaking have brightened since Abbas succeeded Arafat last month on a platform of non-violence, and persuaded militants to abide by a de facto truce. *Reuters*

new
CITYLAND'S OXFORD MANSION
NEW SANTOLAN, PASIG CITY
for as low as P7,318/mo.
2BR (28 sqm.)
8-storey commercial & residential condominium
IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO : Eastwood City, Riverbanks, Robinson's East, Shopwise Sta.Lucia East, Ateneo, UP, PSBA, NCBA, Medical City
CITYLAND Leading Condominium Developer
Presidential Awardee
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • 892-6150
(0919)310-8553 www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net

AURORA SHREDDER
Eliminate the risks of stolen information...

AS1410SB
14 Sheets Capacity
Strip Cut
Mechanical Auto-Start
Manual Reverse
20 L Bin Capacity
6 mm Shred Size

AS870CM
7 Sheets Capacity
Cross Cut
Mechanical Auto-Start
Manual Reverse
20 L Bin Capacity

Distributed by
ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC.
For dealership application please contact us at Tel
MANILA 634-0351 to 59
CEBU (032) 344-1185
DAVAO (082) 221-0585

GENERICS
FACTORY PRICE Jan-03-05
Cash • No Minimum Order • Money Back Guarantee

Amoxicillin Cap. 500 mg	Box of 100's	110.00
Carbocisteine Cap. 500 mg	Box of 100's	90.00
Cephalexine Cap. 500mg	Box of 100's	269.00
Ciprofloxacin HCL Tab. 500mg	Box of 100's	238.00
Co-trimoxazole Tab. (400/80 mg)	Box of 100's	59.00
Mefenamic Acid Cap. 500 mg	Box of 100's	61.00
Multi-vitamin Cap.	Box of 100's	93.00
Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	Box of 100's	24.00
Salbutamol Tab. 2 mg	Box of 100's	23.00
Silymarin Cap. 125 mg (FRANCE)	Box of 100's	940.00
Vitamin B1 + B6 + B12 Tab	Box of 100's	74.00
Vitamin E Softgels 400 I.U. (USA)	Bot. of 500's	1,100.00

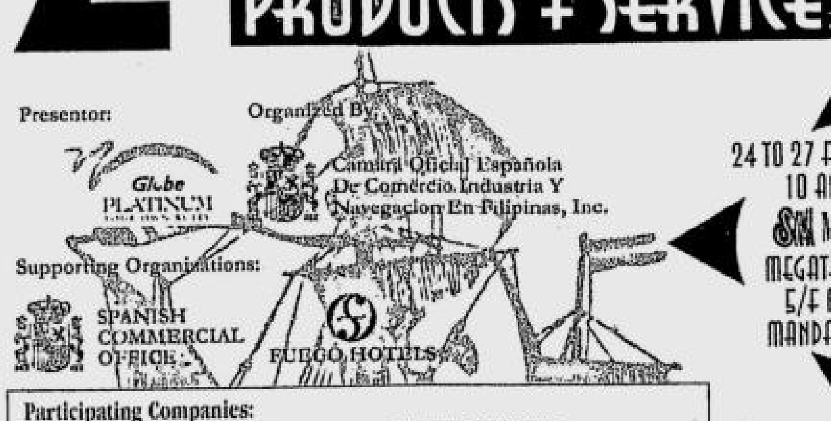
CNN GENERICS
R 210 LC Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave., Q.C.
Telfs : 410-1337•410-0815
410-1451•741-7763
Fax : 410-6216
E mail : lowprice@cnn generics.com visit: www.cnn generics.com
More than 400 products
We welcome dealers/distributors!

SPEECHPOWER
Different. Professional. Effective.
FEBRUARY-MARCH TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE PROGRAM 2005
High-paying jobs demand...:
☐ English Proficiency
☐ Confident Personality
☐ Positive Work Attitude
Join our
—FREE SAMPLE LESSONS—
TODAY
Speechpower - España
Feb. 25 - Fri SP-Taft
3:00 - 5:00 PM ; 6:00 - 8:00 PM
For more details, call:
☎Cubao •911-0832 •911-0833 •911-0834
☎España •735-7256 •735-7262 •735-7312
☎Taft •521-3601 •525-5310
www.speechpower.com.ph

MUST IN EVERY BUSINESS!
We Offer The World's Most Trusted High Pressure Washers & Vacuum Cleaners!
Elite
Mitho Plus
Optima
Silver Jet
* Hose Reel Optional
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FROM THE 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
Exclusively Distributed By
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
MAIN OFFICE:1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?
It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology Therabreath System™ a U.S. product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work. Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition.
Free delivery w/in Metro Manila
Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-8380; 895-5532; 897-2466
Cel# 0917-7965859,0919-5109455

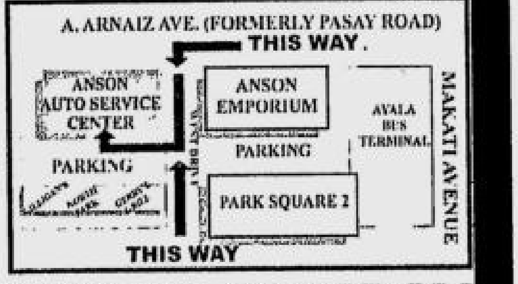
idec®
AIRCONDITIONING
Split Type Aircon
The aircon that creates cool & quiet environment.
1hp P16,500
1.5hp P18,500 2hp P25,000
Free Installation!
Call 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas


2ND SPANISH PRODUCTS + SERVICES EXPO
Presentor: Globe PLATINUM
Organized By: Camara Oficial Española De Comercio, Industria Y Navegacion En Filipinas, Inc.
Supporting Organizations: SPANISH COMMERCIAL OFFICE FUEGO HOTELS
24 TO 27 FEBRUARY 2005
10 AM TO 8 PM
SM MEGAMALL
MEGATRADE HALL 1
5/F MEGAMALL
MANDALUYONG CITY

Participating Companies:
ATR-TORRES WINES & SPIRITS, INC.
ARLUY, S.L. (KROMOPEAK INNOVATIONS, INC.)
BARCINO GOURMET
BCS SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
BESTWORLD BEVERAGE BRANDS, INC.
BP SOLAR ESPAÑA
CAMARA OFICIAL ESPAÑOLA DE COMERCIO
CASA CATERS INC. (UNA MAS)
CASA MERCEDES, INC.
DULCINEA
EL COMEDOR
ESPA-FIL IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.
FUEGO HOTELS
FLY ACE CORP.
GAUDI RESTAURANT
GLOBAL GOURMET INC.
GLOBE TELECOMS, INC.
ILLUSTRADO
INSTITUTO CERVANTES
LIENZO / MCKENZIE & WELLS
LINK IMPORT & EXPORT
MAPFRE ASIAN INSURANCE CORP.
MESCO/GETINSA
ORIENTAL MERCHANTS, INC.
PERFUMERIA ESPAÑOLA CORP.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Q & H FOODS, INC.
SELESTAR COMPANY INC.
SOLUZIONA
SPAIN TOURISM BOARD
SPANISH COMMERCIAL OFFICE
TABAQUERIA DE FILIPINAS, INC.
TITA NIA WINE CELLAR INC.
TNT EXPRESS WORLDWIDE
WORLDWIDE FOODS & WINES INC. AND TERRY SELECTION

Sponsors: MEGATRADE HALL VANTAGE
Official Media Partners: INQUIRER
For details and schedule of activities, please call fairs&more at 845.1324/ 759.6680.
OPENS TODAY! ENTRANCE IS FREE!

FOR ALL YOUR AUTO REPAIR AND SERVICE NEEDS...
NAME IT! WE'VE GOT IT!
Anson Auto Service Center
LOWEST PRICE YOU EXPECT IN THE TIME YOU WANT
DRIVE IN FOR A CHECK-UP!
SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND FEEL THE RESULTS.
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
AYALA CENTER, A. ARNAIZ AVENUE (FORMERLY PASAY ROAD), CORNER WEST DRIVE, MAKATI CITY
8922212 • 8922213 • 8922214
8867552 • 8867551



OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

Tutu: Nearly 50M babies born every year have no identity

UNITED NATIONS—Archbishop Desmond Tutu launched a global campaign Tuesday to record the birth of every child, saying nearly 50 million babies born every year are not registered and thus have no official identity and often barred from education or health care.

"It is, in a very real sense, a matter of life and death," the South African Nobel Peace Prize winner said. "The unregistered child is a nonentity. The unregistered child does not exist. How can we live with the knowledge that we could have made a difference?"

In 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child imposed an obligation on countries to register every child immediately after birth. Sixteen years later, every country in the world has ratified the convention except the United States and Somalia.

But according to the latest figures from the UN Children's Fund, over 48 million births each year—36 percent of births worldwide—are not registered, the vast majority in developing countries.

The British aid agency Plan, which released a 50-page report titled "Universal Birth Registration—a Universal Responsibility" to coincide with the campaign, said it is impossible to know how many unregistered children there are because they cannot be counted. But it said best estimates put the overall, worldwide number at more than 500 million.

Tutu told a news conference that a birth document "proves who you are," and without one children and adults are often barred from education, health care, citizenship and the right to vote.

"Governments worldwide are failing the world's children, as millions of youngsters without a birth certificate find it very difficult to prove their age or nationality," said Thomas J. Miller, the former US ambassador to Greece and Plan's new chief executive.

TUTU

"And parents whose children go missing during disasters like the tsunami or because they are abducted by traffickers may even be unable to get help with tracing their sons or daughters because they cannot prove the age of their children—or in many cases that their children even exist," he said.

The region with the most unregistered children is South Asia, with 63 percent of births not recorded every year, followed by sub-Saharan Africa with 55 percent.

In Central and eastern Europe countries and the former Soviet bloc, 23 percent of children aren't legally registered. In East Asia and the Pacific, the figure is 19 percent, in the Middle East and North Africa 16 percent, in Latin America and the Caribbean 15 percent, and in industrialized countries 2 percent.

Miller blamed neglect and apathy among governments for the failure to register children.

"This is not high technology and it's not expensive," he said, noting that in Cambodia, which he just visited, 2.4 million people were registered in less than four months using fingerprints.

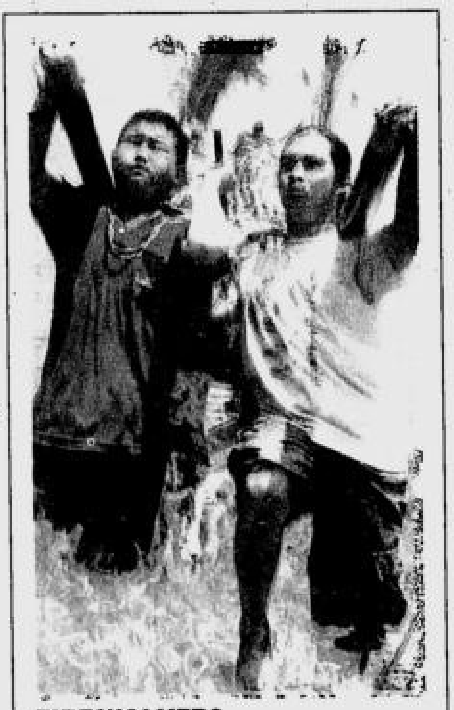
Philippine Sen. Companera Pia Cayetano said her country was aiming for 100 percent birth registration by 2010 and called for the lowering or elimination of registration fees.

Plan is currently working with local partners in over 40 countries to boost the rates of child registration, Miller said.

"This is going to be a work in progress for the rest of our lives," he said.

Tutu urged those who successfully fought for an end to apartheid to join the campaign to ensure that every child in the world is registered and has an identity.

"I never give up," he said. "I believe human beings are fundamentally good and that when people want to do good, they will do the right thing." *AP*



FIRE WALKERS
Thai Chinese Buddhists carry idols through flames during a traditional ceremony at the Lim Kor Niew shrine in Pattani province, 1,100 km south of Bangkok, Feb. 23. Thousands of Buddhists celebrated the festival in which the images of local deities must be carried through water and fire. REUTERS

Bosnian ex-army chief to surrender

SARAJEVO—Bosnian Muslim wartime army commander Rasim Delic said on Tuesday he will surrender to the UN court in The Hague which has indicted him over war crimes committed against ethnic Serbs during the 1992-95 war.

"As a person respecting the law I cannot do do anything else than to defend the truth about the 1992-1995 war before The Hague tribunal," Delic said in a statement on national television.

Earlier Tuesday television said that Delic will go to The Hague on Monday, but he did not confirm that in his statement.

"The indictment is related to my alleged indirect responsibility in forming of El Mujaheed unit and its actions," Delic said, adding that the indictment was delivered to the Muslim-Croat entity's Prime Minister Ahmed Hadzipasic.

The El Mujaheed unit was made up of fighters from Islamic countries fighting alongside the Muslim-led Bosnian army.

The television said that Delic, 56, was charged over war crimes committed by the El Mujaheed unit serving within the 3rd army corps against ethnic Serbs in the area of Ozren and Vozuca in central Bosnia.

"On one hand I'm surprised because my responsibility does not exist, while on the other it is a kind of relief... to end speculations and uncertainty," Delic said in the interview.

"The El Mujaheed unit was far away from me in the chain of command. There were three command levels between me and them," he added.

Delic, who served as army chief from 1993 until the end of the war, is the second Bosnian Muslim wartime army chief to be indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

His predecessor Sefer Halilovic has surrendered to the UN tribunal to answer to charges relating to the massacre of 62 Croat civilians in the villages of Grabovica and Uzdol in 1993. Halilovic's trial started earlier this month.

In April Bosnian media reported that the UN tribunal was to indict Delic along with the wartime vice president Ejup Ganic, interior minister Bakir Alispahic, and 3rd corps commander Sakib Mahmuljanin.

The retired general, Delic, who currently serves as a military adviser to the Muslim member of Bosnia's tripartite presidency Sulejman Tihic, was the first to confirm those media reports.

"We see general Delic as a commander of Bosnian army which defended the country from aggression and which defended its people from destruction," Tihic told local media.

Post-war Bosnia is made up of two semi-independent entities—the Muslim-Croat federation and Serb-run Republika Srpska.

Despite international pressure, the Republika Srpska remains the only territory of former Yugoslavia that has not yet arrested a single war crimes suspect. *AFP*

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

A Beautiful [R]evolution

Introducing the new Toyota Innova

We're taking you to a new age of automotive excellence with the new Toyota INNOVA. Stylish exterior features, remarkable car-like comfort, a solid frame and enhanced suspension, and technologically-advanced engines, all with the promise of global quality. With a choice of the latest Common-Rail diesel engine delivering as high as 102 Ps / 3,600 rpm as well as the Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-i) gasoline engine at 136 Ps / 5,600 rpm, both engineered for boosted power, performance and efficiency.

Fire up your new drive—the INNOVA.

3 YEAR WARRANTY
www.toyota.com.ph

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BA
TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 /
(043) 723-7388 / (043) 723-7638 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822
TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC
Salitran II, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2904 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jar
Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño,Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS,
TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 726 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 05 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, Olongapo-Gapan Road, San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 309 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 632-

North Korea's Kim willing to resume nuke talks

BEIJING—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has said his country is willing to return to nuclear disarmament talks despite an earlier threat to withdraw from negotiations, Chinese officials reported Tuesday.

Less than two weeks after the North announced it had nuclear weapons and was snubbing the talks indefinitely, Kim told Chinese envoy Wang Jiarui he remained committed to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

"He hopes that the international community can understand that in the Feb. 10 declaration, the North Korean side never opposed the six-party talks and that the DPRK (North Korea) would be willing to return to the six-party talks at an early date, if the conditions are right," Wang told Chinese television.

"General Secretary Kim Jong-il made it very clear that to maintain a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and resolve the issue through dialogue, this goal and this position had not changed," he said.

Wang, who returned to Beijing Tuesday after talks with Kim, did not specify what the conditions were. The Stalinist state has previously demanded one-on-one talks with the United States, which favors a multilateral approach.

Kim expressed hope that Washington would "show trustworthy sincerity and move," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The United States said Tuesday it wanted North Korea to return to the six-party talks, which also include South Korea, Russia, Japan and China.

"We've been clear, we want the North Koreans to return to the six-party talks," said White House spokesperson Trent Duffy, who did not comment on Pyongyang's request for unspecified "conditions" to resume negotiations.

US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice later spoke with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on the telephone, agreeing that the talks should resume "as early as possible," China's official Xinhua news agency said.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi urged Pyongyang to return to the table unconditionally while the Russian foreign ministry welcomed Kim's comments, saying the talks were the "shortest route" to resolving the nuclear issue. **AFP**

OFFICE CHAIRS

Office Table & Accessories

MaxQ

BINDER / PAPER SHREDDER

FEATURES:
- Finger Ring - Aluminum
- Rado - Tin-Plate
- Slide-Rail Metal - Tin-Plate
- Lever Arch Mechanism
- Lever Arch Mechanism Compressor Bar
  - Satin with Plastic Button

AUTOMATIC
- Feed/Shred Sensing System
- Reverse System occurs when papers are jammed
- Warning System activates when shred box overloads
  - cross cut

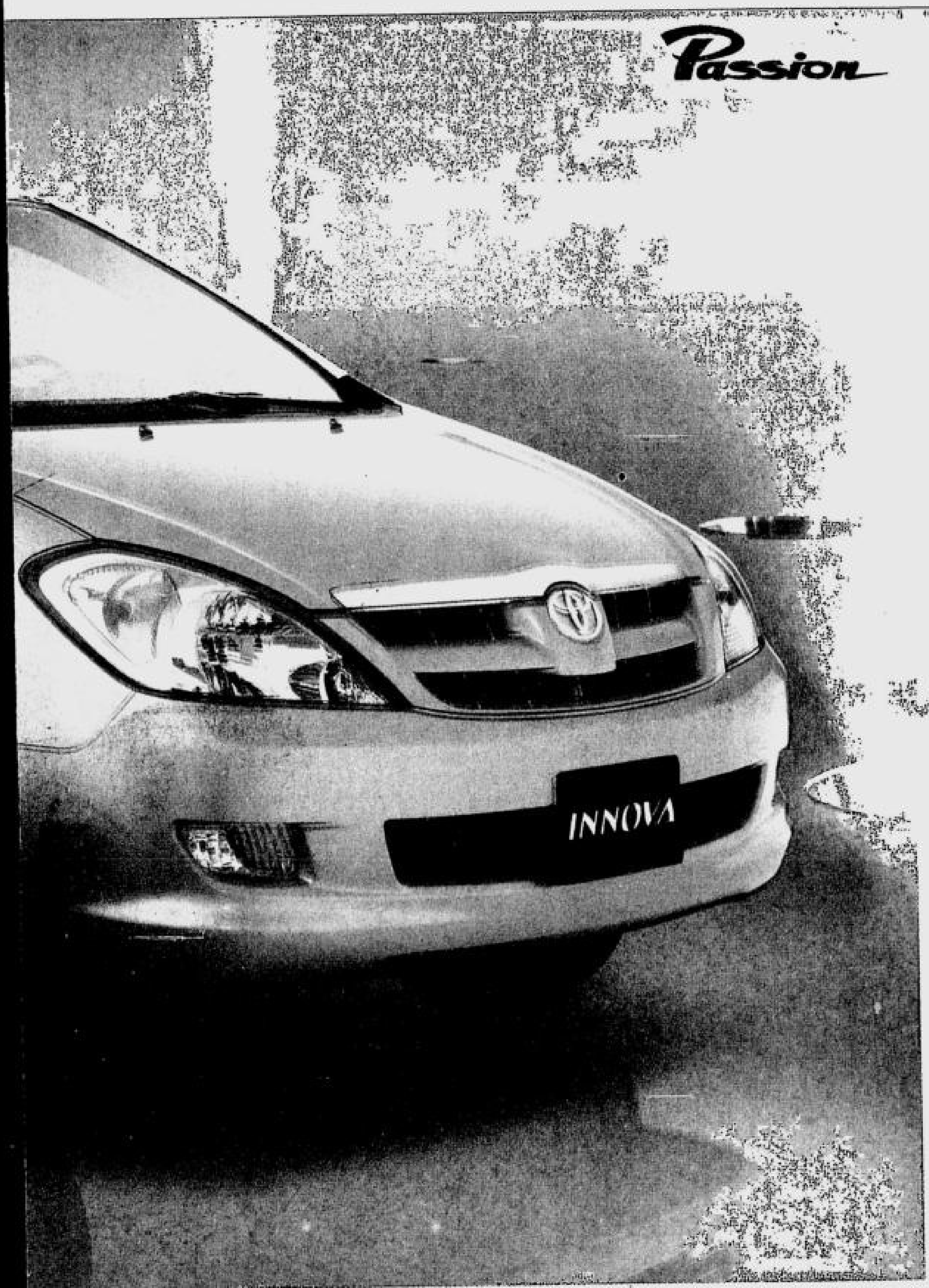
Office table complete with modesty panel, additional accessories like mobile pedestal, center drawer and keyboard tray are also available.

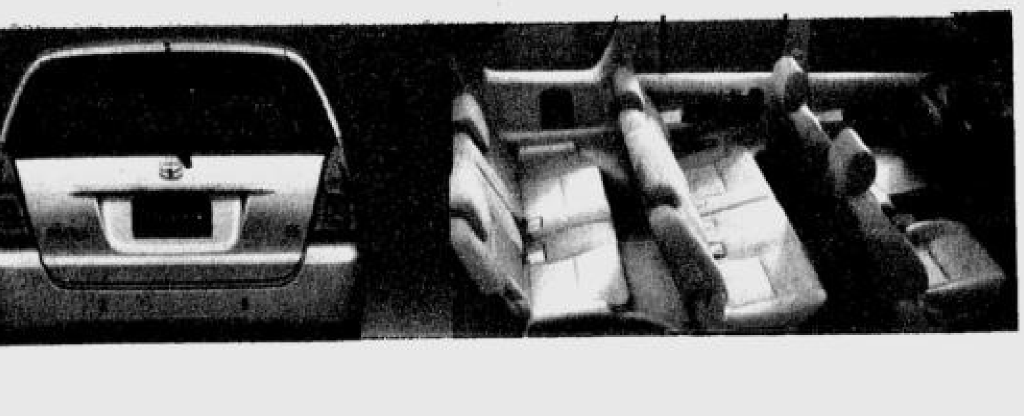
Also available office table sizes:
Depth : 700 mm
Length : 1000 mm ; 1200 mm ;
1400 mm ; 1600 mm

- Keyboard tray with steel ball bearing slide can easily be installed under the desk with built-in tray for pencils, pens and paper clips.

DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation

Address
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Quezon City
Tel: 362-1111, 361-6006 Fax No: 362-0524
email: info@dexterton.com
website: www.dexterton.com





CHECK OUT THE NEW INNOVA

Visit the GLORIETTA Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati on Feb. 25-27, 2005.

Come and celebrate with us! Experience and marvel at this beautiful revolution from Toyota.

Fun and surprises await you and your family!

Surf the Toyota website www.toyota.com.ph and learn more about the Innova through our internet café.

You can even have your photos taken with the Innova, for free!

Toyota Marketing Professionals will be there to assist and entertain your queries.

Plus, live celebrity performances every night!

Don't miss this opportunity to experience this Beautiful Revolution—the new Innova!

INNOVA
A Beautiful [R]evolution

O CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3625 / (074) 443-6778
927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City
5-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 856-7770 (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M J. Cuenco St . Cebu City (032) 253-1161
iversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE,
oilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI INC., Ayala cor Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP.,
1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084
2 / 632-0428 / 534-3009 (telefax) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-0854 to 64 / 671-0460

TOYOTA

Sea of ice found near Mars equator

AMSTERDAM—Images relayed by a European space probe reveal the existence of a sea of ice close to the equator of Mars, scientists said Tuesday at a conference in the Netherlands.

The evidence comes from photographs—not yet published—taken last year by the European Space Agency's Mars Express probe currently orbiting the red planet.

The scientists said the existence of water or ice would significantly increase the chance that microscopic life may also be found on Mars.

Scientists have long theorized there was once water on Mars, and data from Nasa's Mars Rovers has recently appeared to confirm it. But most scientists believed the water had evaporated into the atmosphere early in the planet's history.

"The point is that the ice is very recent: it appears to still be there, covered beneath a layer of dust and ash," John Murray of Britain's Open University said.

Murray co-authored a paper detailing the findings which was to be published in the March 17 issue of Nature.

"You can see pack ice in formations that are remarkably similar, identical to ice floes in Antarctica," he said.

Murray said the ice was believed to have formed five million years ago—the blink of an eye, in geological terms—atop a body of water the size of Earth's North Sea.

The water is believed to have originated beneath the surface of Mars, near a series of fractures known as the Cerberus Fossae, where it gushed forth in a catastrophic flood after being warmed by the planet's core. *AP*

Gay marriages part of 'ideology of evil,' says Pope in book

ROME—Homosexual marriages are part of "a new ideology of evil" that is insidiously threatening society, Pope John Paul says in a new book published on Tuesday.

In "Memory and Identity," the Pope also calls abortion a "legal extermination" comparable to attempts to wipe out Jews and other groups in the 20th century.

He also reveals that he is convinced the Turkish gunman who shot him in 1981 did not act alone and suggests that the former Communist Bloc may have been behind the plot to kill him.

The 84-year-old Pontiff's book, a highly philosophical and intricate work on the nature of good and evil, is based on conversations with philosopher friends in 1993 and later with some of his aides.

In one section about the role of lawmakers, the Pope takes another swipe at gay marriages when he refers to "pressures" on the European Parliament to allow them.

"It is legitimate and necessary to ask oneself if this is not perhaps part of a new ideology of evil, perhaps more insidious and hidden, which attempts to pit human rights against the family and against man," he writes.

The Pope's fifth book for mass circulation, issued by Italian publisher Rizzoli, sparked controversy in Germany and elsewhere after Jewish groups protested against leaked excerpts comparing the Holocaust to abortion.

In at least two sections of the book, the Pope talks about the Nazi attempt to exterminate Jews and the wholesale slaughter of political opponents by Communist regimes after World War Two.

In following paragraphs he says that legally elected parliaments in formerly totalitarian countries were today allowing what he called new forms of evil and new exterminations.

"There is still, however a legal extermination of human beings who have been conceived but not yet born," he writes.

"And this time we are talking about an extermination which has been allowed by nothing less than democratically elected parliaments where one normally hears appeals for the civil progress of society and all humanity," he writes.

In Germany, a leader of the country's Central Council of Jews called the comparison unacceptable.

At a news conference presenting the book, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's top doctrinal official, dismissed the Jewish charges. *Reuters*

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER Vol. 20 No. 78
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Unshared burden

EDITORIAL

BARELY three months after declaring that we were over the hump, President Macapagal-Arroyo has resurrected the specter of an Argentina-type economic meltdown. "The bottom line is, we need to raise P80 billion (through) legislative measures and P100 billion (through) administrative measures," she said during a visit to Bohol. "Otherwise, in two years' time we will be an Argentina."

That was, of course, the warning first issued by 11 professors from the UP School of Economics in August last year; a warning immediately picked up by the President herself. She then announced that the country was experiencing a fiscal crisis and quickly unwrapped a package of measures designed to increase revenues and cut government expenditures, with the ultimate goal of holding back a runaway deficit and arresting the growth of an already huge public debt. The people responded by muting their opposition to new taxes and, in some places in Mindanao, even chipping in some modest sums for a fund-raising drive organized by their bishop. Congress started discussing new tax measures, and some lawmakers offered to take cuts on, if not completely give up, their pork barrel allocations.

However, all the good will and good intentions evaporated as soon as it became clear that sacrifices had to be shared. It soon became clear that all the sacrifices would have to be borne exclusively by the citizens, from higher taxes to increased power rates.

After expressing shock over the high salaries and rich perks enjoyed by officials of a number of government-owned corporations, Malacañang seems to have forgotten that cutting expenditures can help reduce the deficit. When local government officials opposed a reduction in their internal revenue allocations, Malacañang also dropped the idea. After Congress passed two of the eight new tax measures proposed by Malacañang, some lawmakers promptly demanded the release of their pork barrel. It looked as if our lawmakers passed the new tax measures not to save the nation from bankruptcy and the resulting chaos but to preserve their pork barrel funds and their usual kickbacks.

The administration seemed to have lost sight of the real reason for its frenzied search for additional revenues. Like some congressmen who started licking their lips after smelling pork, Malacañang began talking about the many added services the government could provide as a result of the new revenue-generating measures. But then, didn't the President declare the crisis over some time in November, long before the government could collect a single centavo from the new taxes?

Malacañang and Congress were already counting the chickens—until the international credit ratings agencies, Moody's Investors Service especially, rudely reminded them that more than P5 trillion in public sector debt remained undiminished and the government's capacity to pay it remained in doubt. That reminder by itself, coming in the form of a two-notch downgrade in our sovereign debt rating, is going to cost us plenty, setting us back by $114 million in added interest costs yearly, according to some estimates.

That's nothing compared to what will happen if the government cannot put its financial house in order and very soon. For the President, it was time to re-issue the dire warning she made six months ago, if only to get Congress to act more quickly on the other revenue-generating measures, especially the increase in the value-added tax. But will the warning work this time? Will it make Congress work faster on the other tax measures, for instance? More importantly, will it make people understand and accept the need to bear a heavier burden in terms of more taxes and higher prices?

It's unlikely that people will rally behind the effort like they did last year. Not when Congress and Malacañang seem determined to dump all of the responsibility for paying off the country's debts on them.

Right path

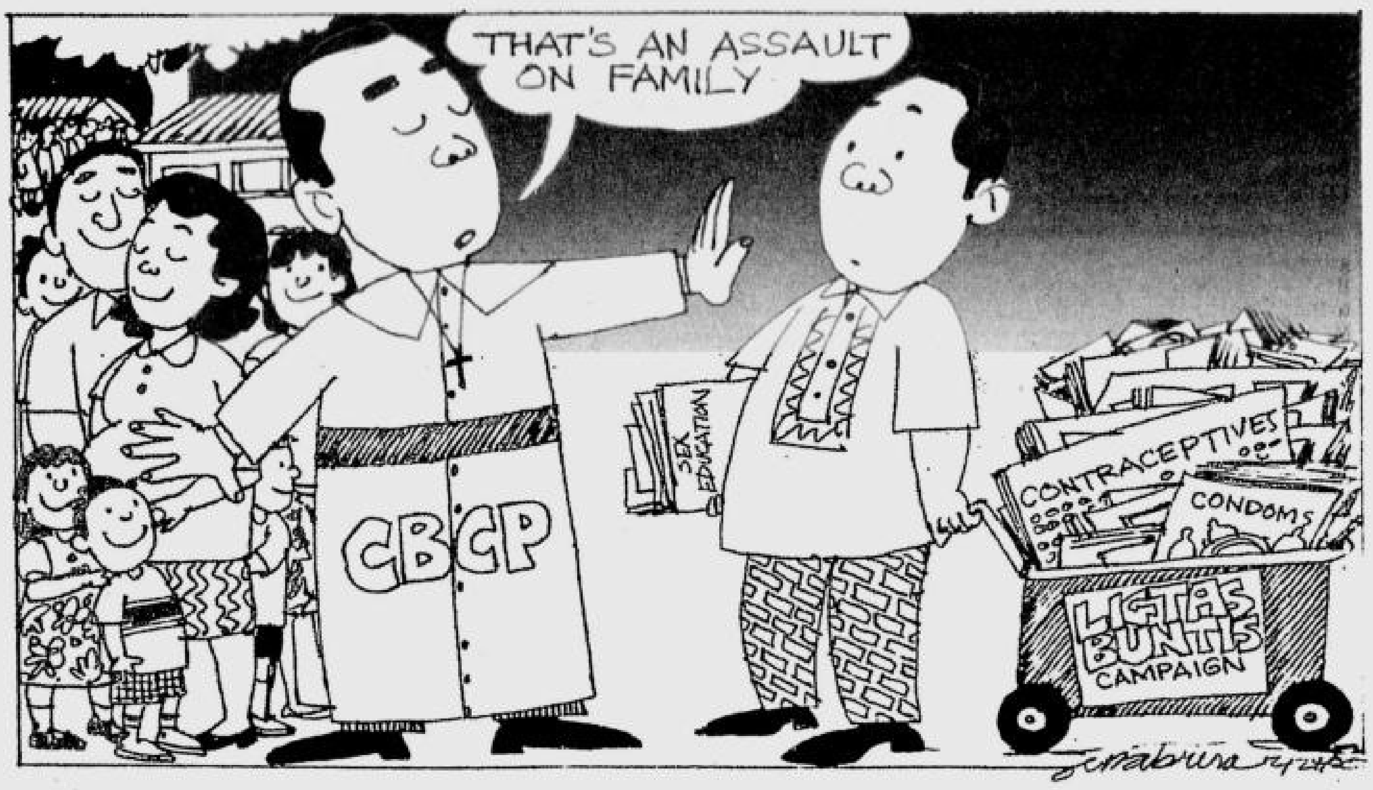
FOREIGN COMMENT

THE PROTOCOL is an imperfect instrument, it doesn't consider the pollution produced by China and by developing countries and ignores the voices of the scientists that still don't see proof of the greenhouse effects. Washington must however keep in mind ... that one quarter of the noxious gases of the world are "made in the USA."

Kyoto is not the panacea against pollution, but it indicates the correct path, there is no contradiction between development and environment.

The best thing is not to make a new case of it and divide ourselves, but to discuss together how to confront the criticism of the Protocol.

Corriere della Sera (Milan, Italy)



When the fat lady sings

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"YOUR grandchildren's children will be grateful," Mayor Tomas Osmeña proclaimed when worried taxpayers asked him how much they will pay for the Cebu City South Reclamation Project's yen loans.

"Not a centavo," he claimed in that May 1997 statement. The national government would pick up the tab. But he ducked, even then, the question of how much.

Last Sunday, City Hall officially admitted that it ladles out P1 million daily to pay for the interest alone. Come September, the first payment of the principal, amounting to P500.5 million, kicks in. A last payment of P333.8 million comes in 2025.

"By 2025, Osmeña will no longer be mayor," the Cebu Daily News pointed out. "All things pass, and we along with them…But our grandchildren will be still saddled with the tabs then. *No basta decir adios.* It's not enough to say goodbye."

In the next 20 years, City Hall must "cough up about P10 billion" to pay the Land Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the national government.

As principal repayments start, a full quarter of Cebu City's budget is hocked for the IOUs. That's one out of every four-tax peso. It will slice into basic services, Osmeña grudgingly admits.

Thus, he'll shelve purchases of heavy equipment critically needed for upland barangays. There'll be little to augment skimpy services, like health, currently pegged at P93 million a year.

"People of the short straw" suffer. Iodine deficiency afflicts 29 out of every 100 kids in the city. And one out of every four pregnant women is short of vitamin A.

"Man does not live by words alone, although sometimes he has to eat them," US presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson once said. As Osmeña munches his grandiose claims, many ask: How did a good project go wrong?

Currency gyrations for one. The Tokyo IOUs were contracted for when the dollar fetched P25. The value of the peso plummeted and hovers at P54 to a dollar today. So, the IOUs have "imploded."

The original P2.3-billion loan has bloated to P6.2 billion. And so has the repayment burden for every man, woman and child within Cebu. Each is now strapped with a tax repayment burden of P86,821—up from P31,996 at the loan signing. Compare that with the P44,548 national debt burden of every Filipino.

Currency fluctuations are, of course, beyond the good mayor's control. But measures to cushion them are. He flunked them.

Take out insurance against peso fluctuations, former adviser Samuel Darza suggested. The mayor scoffed.

Follow your father's example, a London School of Economics adviser suggested. Mayor Sergio Osmeña swapped land for debt. That way he insulated the budget of basic services from debt clams. His honor snorted louder.

"We Osmeñas think we are God's gift to man," explained a senior member of the clan. "Many of us try His chair for size."

Thus, Mayor Osmeña brooked no questions on the loan. A Mafia-like omerta muzzled a thoroughly cowed City Council for years.

"Continued smudging of City Hall's spiraling foreign debt is clamped in place by a seraglio (harem) of eunuchs in the Council," the Sun Star pointed out. This is a mayor who rewards "subservience handsomely." But he whittled down the citizens' role to paying the bill.

No business group or NGO asked the tough questions even as the debts spiraled. It was left to hard-nosed investigative reporters who stripped away the data blackout, revealing lack of a credible repayment policy. Most were women, from Cebu Daily News' Rainne Tecson to Sun Star's Jamin Sumaoy and Ginging Campana, among others.

"(These) are not a gift from Japan. These are loans our grandchildren will have to pay," the Cebu Daily News stressed in "Please pass the can opener." "But Osmeña and Company always downplayed this hard fact" the May 10, 2000 editorial added. "Even a Political Science 101 student knows better…"

"Many crucial issues of our national life have been removed from the agenda of public discussion," the INQUIRER noted. And the last election in Cebu was notable for silence that enveloped the debt issue. "Our lives begin to end on the day we become silent about things that matter."

In its editorial "Right hand, left hand IOUs," the Cebu Daily News pointed out: "Osmeña lopped off P60.9 million from the JBIC's loan to pay—who? The JBIC. That's who. Money hocked from Tokyo is to pay off Tokyo, plus interest on the interest. We paid with the left hand what the right borrowed."

The Commission on Audit complained that City Hall "window-dressed" its books by understating its yen loans by P1.52 billion, revealed the INQUIRER in a July 20, 2004 commentary.

This laundering resulted from using obsolete 1996 exchange rates. Stop using imaginary figures and use the real rates, the COA said. So, who is fooling whom?

Threat is a standard Osmeña weapon. He'd sue the national government if it drags its foot on issuance of titles. Investors buying could end the cash flow crunch that has left him twisting in the wind.

Back in 1997, the Sun Star challenged the mayor's propaganda on the milk-and-honey nature of his loans. "Let it be for now," that commentary suggested. "It ain't over until the fat lady starts to sing. When the collection bills are presented, that's when the fat lady will sing."

With another repayment bill of P619 million due next year alone, the fat lady isn't just clearing her throat. She's singing—with gusto.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Two-way street

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER something a much disillusioned friend told me recently. He wasn't going to join another Edsa, he said. He had played an immense role in the two previous ones (he doesn't consider "Edsa 3" an Edsa at all, it is a complete misnomer, he says), only to see both yield bitter fruit. It was not unlike Christ's injunction not to sow seeds on barren ground, he said. For some reason, this country seems to offer only barren ground. You can't have a more potent seed than Edsa, it beats miracle rice any day, he said, but for some reason it keeps failing to grow here. Edsa has just become another word for futility.

I can understand his frustration. But I don't know that I can subscribe to his sentiments. Notwithstanding what my critics would like to believe, who imagine that my unrelenting campaign against the unrelenting iniquities of the current government is a sign of jadedness. The day I stop being angry is the day I start being cynical. Or the day I start growing old.

The fact that something doesn't turn out the way we expected doesn't make doing it unnecessary or not worth doing all over again. Or indeed, the fact that heroic action produces unheroic results doesn't make heroism superfluous, or not worth embracing all over again. Human beings are not blessed with prescience, however some people like to think they are. We have only the gift of imagination and foresight, neither of which can always prepare us for impending tragedy. In any case, we also have the gift, or curse, of hope, which tends to drown out anxieties and propel us headlong to God-knows-what, believing things can, or should, be better than what they are.

The Revolution waged by Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio and Apolinario Mabini was not any less worth undertaking because it was appropriated by the elite and went for naught anyway because the Americans usurped their impending victory and turned their country into their colony. Rizal, Bonifacio and Mabini did what they had to do. They saw tyranny and fought it, they glimpsed freedom and reached for it, they dreamt of a better world and died for it. Or at least Rizal and Bonifacio did.

The same is true of the revolution waged by the student activists and those who took to the hills or burrowed underground in the 1970s. It was no less worth undertaking because it was appropriated by the elite and went for naught because its own leaders subverted it by their own predilection for repressing and stifling dissent, a fact they drove home with their killing fields. The sacrifices of those who died, many of them in the flush of youth, were not in vain. The phrase "*Hindi ka nagiisa,*" which accompanied Ninoy Aquino to his resting place, is far more prescient than we think. It can't just mean, you are not alone the victim of this tyranny, or you are not alone to lie there, we lie there with you. It can, and should, also mean, you are not alone to have taken a bullet in the head for raising a fist at tyranny, others did before you. Without the resistance before Aug. 21, 1983, there would have been no Edsa.

You'll hear some people say, "I have no regrets, if I had to do it all over again, I would." I am one of those who do say it. The reason is simple. At the very least, the reasons for which I took up the causes I did remain as valid today as they did then, however those causes themselves ended. You refuse to fight tyranny because you could always birth a worse one, you will see no end to tyranny. Worse, you will not move at all. Life is a risk even at its most calculated, every action contains as much the seed of destruction as it does of creation.

At the very most, that is because the sacrifices never really go for naught, however the cause for which they were made was thwarted. What made the struggle against Marcos possible was the struggle of Rizal, Bonifacio and Mabini against the Spanish and Americans. That was the inspiration that animated it. What made the two Edsas possible were the struggles that went before them as well. The late Renato Constantino's thesis in "The Philippines: A Past Revisited," now standard college history textbook, was that what made Rizal's and Bonifacio's revolution possible were all the failed uprisings against Spanish rule in the past. It is a very good thesis. What applies to Rizal's and Bonifacio's struggles apply to those that came after.

No, I don't mind joining another Edsa, and still another, if that is what it takes to pull this country by its bootstraps. Which in any case, as I keep saying, is not the easiest thing to mount: You don't just gather bodies in one place and call it Edsa. Truly, "Edsa 3" is a misnomer. What I do mind is that we, the people, keep going back to where we were after each Edsa, patting ourselves in the back for a job well done, assuming things will start getting better by themselves. What I do mind is that we, the people, keep falling back into mediocrity at the end of brilliance, lapsing into veteran smugness, telling stories about the "war" in the bar, leaving "others" to do the rest.

The work of Edsa does not end with Edsa, it just begins with Edsa. The problem has never been joining Edsa, the problem has always been fulfilling Edsa. We have no problems rising to heroic levels to defy tyranny, why can't we rise beyond ourselves to build a better country?

It's no small irony that we also call Edsa "people power" when it is the people who disappear after Edsa. Certainly, whose power disappears after Edsa, the ensuing government imposing its will on us rather than the other way around. Well, take it from its provenance: Edsa is a very long road.

It means nothing if we can't traverse the entire thing. Or turn it into a two-way street.

Privacy issue far from settled

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OPPONENTS of the national ID system point out that the Supreme Court already ruled against it in 1998. I did some research, and I found out that the claim is inaccurate.

On Dec. 12, 1996, President Fidel Ramos issued Administrative Order 308 seeking to establish a "national computerized identity reference system." Sen. Blas Ople, who realized he couldn't sue Ramos, sued instead Executive Secretary Ruben Torres before the SC on the AO's validity. On July 23, 1998, the SC invalidated the Ramos AO on two grounds: (1) that the ID system cannot be imposed by a mere AO, but needs a legislation; (2) that it imperils the citizen's right to privacy.

* * *

There was a clear majority decision on ground No. 1, that a law is needed to set up the ID system: eight of 14 justices (ponente Reynato Puno, Davide, Regalado, Romero, Bellosillo, Martinez, Vitug and Panganiban) said so; six (then Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, Melo, Kapunan, Mendoza, Quisumbing and Purisima) dissented. But on ground No. 2—that it's a violation of the citizen's right to privacy—only three justices joined Puno: Romero, Bellosillo and Martinez. Significantly, six other justices (named above) expressly said the privacy issue was not valid; in fact, Mendoza even argued that all the data being sought for the national ID system were already being given to other offices, such as SSS, GSIS and BIR, so that getting them into one ID system was no big deal.

* * *

Panganiban wrote a separate opinion saying that the ID system should be invalidated only on ground No. 1, but not on ground No. 2, and Davide concurred with him. Vitug also wrote a separate opinion basically saying the same thing. Regalado said he did not concur fully with the majority. In effect, these four justices said they reserved the right to judge the national ID requirement once it shall have been enacted into law.

In effect, only four justices categorically ruled that the ID system is a violation of privacy; six said it's not, and four wanted to see first how the law setting up the ID system would be crafted. It can be argued that the privacy issue was not settled at all by the SC decision, unlike the need for a law to set up the system which got a clear majority decision.

* * *

The INQUIRER interview of former senator and Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan leader Gregorio Honasan shows the deep hurt his group feels about having been "marginalized" after Edsa 1. By his own admission, its members are writing the story from their perspective, and they are entitled to that. But his claims have to be set in the perspective of history.

Contrary to his claim that the withdrawal of support from Marcos by RAM, defense chief Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP vice chief Ramos was the "spark" for the Edsa Revolution; Edsa 1 was the culmination of a long chain of anti-Marcos initiatives—involving many personalities—through many years. Like a great cathedral Edsa was not built overnight. One can think of the Left, personalities like journalists Satur Ocampo and Carolina Malay, who went underground to fight Marcos, as did bureaucrat Horacio Morales, who disappeared the night he got his TOYM award. There's the exile movement in the US, led by Ninoy Aquino, Raul Manglapus, Jovito Salonga, Heherson Alvarez, Raul Daza, etc., and the resistance in Europe by people like Tomas Concepcion, Bert and Chit Pedrosa, etc. There's the martial law group here of Chino Roces, Joker Arroyo, Rene Saguisag, Etta Rosales, etc., and journalists like Joe Burgos, Eggie Apostol, Ninez Olivares, Letty Magsanoc, Domini Torrevillas, etc. There's the Catholic bishops denouncing the fraud in the snap election, the brave computer programmers, and the boycott movement launched by Cory Aquino. Above all, there's the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino that unleashed the fury and outrage of the middle class, triggering the incessant street marches and the flowering of the infamous "mosquito press." All these happened before the RAM mutiny. RAM's role was to be the final match that lit up the big bonfire called Edsa 1.

* * *

Would the ouster of Marcos have happened without the RAM revolt? It would have, but it might have taken, perhaps, a few months more. At the time the boycott movement was launched, the mood of the million that trooped to the Luneta and another million in Cebu was already ugly. Thus, they were psyched up for Edsa 1, so that when Jaime Cardinal Sin and Butz Aquino called on them to "protect" the military rebels in Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame, they heeded, seemingly devoid of fear for their lives. But I doubt if they would have gone to Edsa had they seen the RAM act as just a fight between two power blocs.

Honasan now says the RAM stayed "in the middle," but this was not the people's perception. They got a glimpse of what RAM was up to in the morning of Feb. 24, 1986, when Enrile and Ramos emerged from Crame with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Ramboys in tow. The Ramboys began chanting "Johnny! Johnny!" but the huge crowd, sensing what was happening, drowned their voices with "Cory! Cory!" Hours later, Enrile and Cory leader Tito Guingona met in Crame to iron out details of her oathtaking the next day at Club Filipino.

* * *

One other inaccuracy: Honasan claims Cory was in Cebu during the Edsa Revolution and that "she was never at Edsa." Indeed, Cory was in Cebu on Feb. 22, 1986 to launch the boycott movement there, but hearing of the military mutiny, she hurriedly left for Manila the following morning. On Feb. 24, at about 4:30 p.m. she went to Edsa and held a rally at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue, directly across the POEA office. I know, for I was covering all those events for Mr. & Ms. Magazine.

The martyrdom of Dorothy Stang

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"SPEAKING truth to power is a prophetic act and Sister Dorothy Stang paid for it with her life. (She) spoke for the dispossessed and the voiceless to the wealthy ranchers and lumber companies who ruthlessly savage the rainforest and exploit it for personal gain."

This was from the statement of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) of the United States on the recent murder of a nun who worked among the poor of the Brazilian Amazon.

A citizen of both the US and Brazil, Stang, 73, took four bullets in her face and head from two gunmen on Feb. 12. The killers attacked Stang in a settlement near the rural town of Anapu, in the state of Para, where she worked to help some 400 families survive. Anapu is along the Trans-Amazon Highway whose construction several decades ago wreaked destruction on the Amazon wilderness.

Stang was murdered less than a week after meeting with Brazil's human rights officials about threats to farmers from loggers and land owners. After receiving several death threats herself, Stang recently said: "I don't want to flee, nor do I want to abandon the battle of these farmers who live without any protection in the forest. They have the sacrosanct right to aspire to a better life on land where they can live and work with dignity while respecting the environment."

(After Stang, two other murders followed. Killed were the former president of a rural workers' union and a farmer.)

A CNN report said that witnesses saw two gunmen approach Stang. Seing them, she pulled out a Bible and began to read. Her killers listened for a moment, then stepped back and fired at close range.

Last year, Stang was named "Woman of the Year" by the state of Para for her work in the Amazon region. In December 2004, she received the "Humanitarian of the Year" award from the Brazilian Bar Association. And early this year, she received an "Honorary Citizenship of the State" from Para.

This nun who wore T-shirts and a short bob was no parachutist, here now, gone tomorrow. Like the trees, Stang had grown roots in the Amazon region. One more mighty tree has been felled, but the Amazon has certainly been made richer by the sap of Stang's life and the manner of her death.

It's martyrdom any way you look at it. And those of us who had dreamed in our youth of giving up family, fortune, career and comfort for the least and the lost can only wonder whether we would have had the fortitude that Stang had, whether we would have been as graced.

Having written about church-related stuff in succession these past weeks (last week, nuns and the Banwaon-Manobo under threat in Agusan), I told someone that I was not going to write about God/church stuff for some time. Well, I could not say "Pass" on Stang the way I could not pass up the murder of Italian Annalena Tonelli who worked in Somalia for 33 years and lived among the poorest, giving hope to refugees and HIV-AIDS sufferers.

Like, why are they murdering all these great, selfless women? These are the real stars. They do not dazzle with glamour and glitter, they give light and life.

Stang's fate was not unlike that of Chico Mendes who was murdered in 1988. Mendes worked among poor rubber tappers and fought road builders and international banks that threatened the jungle, the humans and the wildlife that depended on it. Get the book "The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest" by multi-awarded journalist Andrew Revkin of the New York Times. Or watch the film.

What Revkin wrote about Mendes could well be for Stang. "It became clear that the murder was a microcosm of the larger crime: the unbridled destruction of the last great reservoir of biological diversity on Earth."

Think of our own Sierra Madre, our "last great forest." And think of the recent series of disasters that showed us how nature strikes back.

For centuries, Brazilians have tried to conquer the Amazon (size: 4 million square km) which covers more than half of Brazil. Brazil is 28 times the size of the Philippines. I've read that the jungle frustrated ventures even by Henry Ford and billionaire Daniel Ludwig. Brazil's 1964 to 1985 military government built the Trans-Amazon Highway and gave free land to populate the region. The plan attracted settlers as well as speculators who took control of the logging operations. Loggers, ranchers and politicians conspired and hired hit men to eliminate those who stood in the way.

The Amazon rainforest continues to be a battleground, with the poor inhabitants and ecologists together and the loggers and ranchers forcing themselves into the wilderness.

On the edge of this special place, Stang helped develop sustainable development projects for the poor of Anapu. Born in Dayton, Ohio, Stang belonged to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She began her ministry in Brazil in 1966, then moved to the Amazon in the 1983. Stang worked with the Pastoral Land Commission, a Catholic organization that fights for the rights of rural workers and peasants and defends land reform in Brazil.

You should hear the wailing of the swallows, a Chinese-Filipino activist told me, when the nests (dried bird saliva) are snatched from the limestone cliffs of Palawan, later to soak in that pricey Chinese soup. "Do you know what a sobbing monkey sounds like?" Stang was quoted as saying to a group of legislators.

I hear them now, calling to us.

The Amazon holds some of the greatest wonders and secrets of this planet. Here now lives the spirit of a true "Amazona."

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Dinner with the archbishop

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

EVERY Edsa anniversary, the bishops usually speak out. One of the more prominent among them is Archbishop Orlando B. Quevedo, OMI. I recall meeting him several years ago when he was still archbishop of Vigan.

I had been invited to dine with him. But the town had been plunged into darkness by a power blackout in the wake of a freak storm. So, with my photographer in tow, I made my way to Palacio Episcopal. There we bumped into a security guard who emerged from the sepulchral darkness. I told him we were supposed to have dinner with Bishop Quevedo.

"Oh, in that case, just go on up," he said, training his flashlight in the direction of a massive flight of stairs. We climbed it and found ourselves on the threshold of an enormous hall lit by a puny kerosene lamp. Presently, from one end of the hall, a thin, wraithlike figure emerged and glided over to us.

"The bishop is expecting you," he said, in a voice seemingly from beyond the grave. He beckoned us to follow. We ended up in a chamber used by the bishop as a dining room. Our elderly guide, who turned out to be a retired monsignor, introduced us to the bishop.

The bishop was in a simple polo barong. With him was a roly-poly man in a hot pink shirt, who turned out to be the curator of the archdiocesan museum.

"I'm afraid I've brought bad luck with me, bishop," I said, referring to the rain.

"Oh no, the rain is good," smiled Bishop Quevedo, adding that it was good for the crops. He graciously apologized for the inconvenience caused by the blackout.

The bishop said grace, and then we ate. (He chuckled when I told him some people feel cheated when a priest doesn't bless the food in Latin.)

"I hope you like the food," he said. "I'm afraid my own diet is limited." Apparently, heart problems dictated that he eat only fish, vegetables and rice. The cuisine was simple, but tasty. A beef broth with vegetables, a light salad, good rice. To his delight, my vegan photographer was plied with an Ilocano vegetable dish which he proclaimed the best food he consumed during the entire trip.

Our monsignor guide asked why my photographer was a vegetarian. Was it mandated by religion? I could sense him sniffing for heresy.

"Oh, it's because of the environment, over-fishing and all that, Father," my friend replied. "I'm a Catholic, Father."

After dinner, the bishop sighed that it was unfortunate we couldn't see the museum because of the blackout. Then, *deo ex machina*, the electric power returned! If he weren't so dignified, I think the old monsignor would have whistled with amazement. Bemused by this manifestation of divine favor, the bishop said, "Well, I guess you can see the museum now."

We emerged once more into the enormous hall we had first entered. With the lights on, we were able to appreciate the flooring—planks of hardwood 40 feet long in some places. We were shown to another chamber directly across the door we had entered.

"This is the archbishop's throne room," said Father Rory. "It has been converted into the main display room for our museum. In the old days, archbishops would receive visitors in this room."

The room had a throne on one end, surmounted with Bishop Quevedo's ecclesiastical coat-of-arms, and a canopy and backdrop of red velvet adorned with yellow silk tassels. Near the throne stood a mannequin dressed in full pontificals, wearing a jeweled pectoral cross and ring.

"The bishop's," said Father Rory, referring to the jewelry. Surprised, I glanced at the bishop's hand, to see if he wore a ring at all. He did—a very simple ring inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

"Why don't you wear your other ring?" I asked.

"You see," he replied, "once I got into a jeep and when I reached over to pay the fare, the people's eyes grew big. I was so embarrassed that I never wanted to wear a fancy ring again."

We inspected the treasure of sacred vessels and altar decorations accumulated over the centuries, many of them dating back to the first bishop.

"The difference between our museum and others," Father Rory explained with justifiable pride, "is that all the things you see are still used for worship on special occasions."

As we left the throne room, the bishop chuckled and said, "You know, when I first arrived as the new archbishop, I came up the stairs carrying my little *maleta*, and found this hall full of people and the clergy, all formally dressed! I think they were kind of disappointed when they saw me."

Downstairs, in the Archdiocesan Archives, we were shown the baptismal record of Fr. Jose Burgos, written in elegant script on parchment that looked like it had been made yesterday (some vandal had tested his ballpen on it in the recent past, too).

The bishop, who had been pottering around the room, joined us and was shown the baptismal record.

"Ah, you know, we've done away with first-, second- and third-class baptisms and funerals," he said. A decision, apparently, which had not been received well by the wealthy."

Father Rory asked: "You know why Vigan has two fiestas? Well, in the old days, the town's elite would have their fiesta, and so all their servants would be too busy to make their devotions. So later on in the year, they would have their own fiesta."

The irony is that today, the "poor man's" fiesta is the more popular.

All too soon after that, it was time to say goodbye. The bishop gave his blessing, and the old monsignor volunteered to drive us home in a characteristically decrepit clerical car.

As we said goodbye, I asked him, "Monsignor, pray for us in your next Mass."

He, who had reminded us at first of Count Dracula, smiled the friendliest, sunniest smile I saw during the whole trip.

"I will," he said.

The walk

YOUNG BLOOD

Rolly Jude M. Ortega

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TO HELP mark the "Mindanao Week of Peace" late last year, our school organized a walk for peace. I thought I could use the bonus points I would earn in my Religious Education class, so I decided to join it. But typhoon Yoyong forced its cancellation.

I was disappointed. Southern Mindanao only had light rain showers that day but the suspension of classes was nationwide. I spent the whole day grumbling about the fun I had missed. I was looking forward to the event as an occasion to get better acquainted with my new classmates.

I knew the walk was meant as a call for lasting peace in Mindanao. But I thought it no longer necessary. The whole island had been rather quiet for some time. The most gruesome terrorist act in my memory—the bombing of the Davao airport—happened two years earlier. The government's counter-terrorism efforts must have borne fruit. So if the walk had anything to do with peace, it must be a celebration.

Or so I thought. A few days later, another bomb went off in General Santos City, killing 14 people and injuring dozens of others.

The blast opened my eyes to reality and made me reevaluate my purpose for joining the walk. Peace seemed more elusive than ever before. The terrorists had taken only a brief respite and they were on the prowl again. I should take part in the walk for peace not for some selfish reasons but to help bring about its ultimate goal: peace.

The walk pushed through a week later. The night before the event, I stayed up late working on the placard I would carry. As I struggled to find the perfect message, I remembered one incident that occurred during my childhood.

It happened about 15 years ago during one of the few times I visited Cotabato City. My parents and their friends were following up some papers at the branch office of the Government Service Insurance System in front of the city plaza. While the women were inside, my father and my godfather took me to the park.

There I met a Muslim boy who was a little older than me. He must have been one of several children of a vendor. We became instant friends. Somehow, we managed to communicate even though he spoke Maguindanaoan and I could only speak Ilonggo. Knowing I was a visitor, he invited me for a walk around the park.

We were at the back of the statue of Jose Rizal when a poorly covered manhole caught my eye. I don't know what got into my 4-year-old mind, but I put my foot tentatively on the thin sheet of metal, turned to my companion, and declared, "*Tapakan ko ni* (Do you want me to step on this)?"

He mumbled his disapproval, but my braggadocio got the better of me. I stepped on the cover and it gave way immediately. I fell into the hole, and cold, murky water engulfed my tiny body.

I don't know what happened next. When I was out of the water, the first face I saw was my father's. Then my mother bought me new clothes, a balloon and everything I pointed at in the store we went to. I completely forgot my newfound friend.

I found out later that I could have died if not for the boy's quick action. When he saw me disappear into the manhole, he immediately looked for my father. My father saw my hands trying to grasp at anything among the dead frogs floating in the dark-green water. He pulled me out and was greatly relieved to see that I was conscious.

It was an unforgettable experience for me. The incident has been etched in my memory as my second birth. Remembering what happened that afternoon is like watching a monochromatic film: Two boys take a leisurely walk, oblivious of the rest of the world. It does not matter to them if one prays to God by kneeling down and looking up to heaven, while the other worships Allah by kneeling down and kissing the ground. The friendship they share knows no religion, language or culture.

So when I walked around Koronadal City with my fellow students of Notre Dame, I carried my placard up high so that everyone could read what I had written: "Prejudice creates injustice. Injustice destroys peace."

Midway through the activity, I was filled with doubts. I began questioning the significance of what I was doing. Would the walk have any impact on the peace and order situation in Mindanao? I thought the walk would bring awareness and awaken the peacemaking instinct in people. But those who came out to watch went back to whatever they were doing after seeing that it was not a parade. Those who stayed did so because they were amused by the sight of students marching like labor union members on strike. Motorists were obviously annoyed to find the flow of traffic being disturbed.

I asked myself if the terrorists would heed to the silent cry of a few hundred students. They were deaf to the wails of families left by the innocent civilians killed by their bombs. They were blind to the agony of those who were crippled and maimed by the explosion. Their hearts had been hardened by the injustices they suffered. Their minds had been clouded by ideologies.

I finished the walk feeling lost and confused amid the throng of students. But I realized afterwards, during the symposium and the Mass, that the walk was not useless or futile. It may not have changed the minds of the terrorists, but it helped everyone who joined become aware of his vital role in peacekeeping. It may not have moved those we passed by, but it made us resolve to become peacemakers. After the walk, we were ready to wipe away the prejudices we had acquired and judge everyone on the basis of his character, not his religion or ethnicity.

I hope other young people of Mindanao—both Christians and Muslims—will have the opportunity to join a walk for peace or any related activity. If every young man and woman would work for peace today, who is going to plant bombs tomorrow? Propagating a culture of peace among the youth is the way to put an end to the insurgencies in Mindanao.

The walk was exhausting and made my feet ache. But the pain was nothing compared to the rewards I got. The bonus points? I did not get any because our teacher was not able to join us. But the enlightenment I received was much more valuable. And I gained friends—peace-loving friends.

Rolly Jude M. Ortega, 19, is a BS Electronics and Communications Engineering freshman at the Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal City.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Diaspora is not good for us

THIS is in reaction to the column of Johnny Mercado on the Philippine diaspora. (PDI, 1/25/05) We must remember that no country has ever become strong because of diaspora. Diaspora is to a nation what hemorrhage is to an individual. Diaspora is even worse because with it, a nation loses not only blood but also brain and brawn.

The classic example is Israel. After its citizens were scattered throughout the world by the Roman Empire, Israel practically died—it ceased to exist. It was revived through Zionism—the movement advocating the return of the Jews to Israel after the end of World War II.

Mass emigration occurs when a nation is in trouble. Another classic example was the potato famine in Ireland in the 1840s that led to the mass migration to America. Unemployment in England and religious persecution in Europe led to the mass emigrations in the 18th and 19th centuries. Only when the European countries, like Germany and Italy, began industrializing did their diaspora stop and they became strong.

Hitler's dictatorship and persecution of the Jews led to the emigration of Jewish scientists to the United States. This brain drain partly led to the defeat of Germany in World War II because the scientists who fled Hitler developed the atomic bomb for the United States instead of for Germany. As the biggest destination of immigrants, the United States developed rapidly to become the strongest country after the war.

Philippine emigration started during the Spanish colonial rule when Filipinos were conscripted by the Spanish government for slave labor in the Marianas and to fight its wars against the Portuguese. At the start of the US occupation, Filipino laborers were recruited to work in the Hawaiian cane fields and to pick pineapple in California. After World War II, our emigration to the United States consisted mostly of educated Filipinos and professionals.

In the '70s, the Marcos dictatorship consciously adopted the policy of encouraging mass labor emigration because of growing unemployment at home, to ease social unrest against the dictatorship and earn foreign exchange to pay its debts. This Marcos policy continues to be implemented by our government up to the present. However, despite the remittances of overseas Filipino workers, our country has not prospered.

An ADB study says OFW remittances have not helped the country to progress. It is easy to see why. Remittances by OFWs are used mostly for consumption by their families. Capital does not come from consumption but from profits, but the profits are being made by multinationals whose products are being bought by the OFWs' families. Despite the heavy sacrifices of our OFWs, our people remain pathetically impoverished.

Unless we change policy and concentrate on internal development to keep our workers, intellectuals and professionals here, our country will remain impoverished, starving and humiliated.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

On ARMM's missing GSIS funds

PLEASE allow me to reply to the letter titled "Truth behind missing GSIS contributions." (PDI, 1/31/05)

It was quite clear in the article of Cynthia Balana, in our party's press release, and in my privilege speech that the unremitted P1-billion compulsory GSIS contributions of teachers consisted of the principal amounting to P495.1 million and P473.6 million in accumulated interests.

I have read the memorandum of agreement entered into by the Government Service Insurance System, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and the Department of Budget and Management. I maintain that it is not enough that the ARMM and DepEd officials acknowledge the loss of GSIS contributions by promising to pay their obligation within 15 years at the interest rate of 12 percent per annum.

House Resolution 534, which I authored, seeks not to malign any ARMM officials but to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation:

1. To determine how and why the DepEd-ARMM failed to remit the contributions to the GSIS.
2. To ascertain if the illegal disbursement of the DepEd-ARMM funds unearthed by the Bureau of Treasury in Mindanao was in any way related to the contributions the DepEd-ARMM failed to remit to the GSIS.
3. To determine how and why the appropriate procedure was disregarded in the disbursement of the funds.
4. To identify the public officials involved in the transactions and to determine the extent of their participation and liability, if any.
5. To identify measures to prevent, monitor and penalize similar occurrences.

I want to assure everyone concerned that my efforts are not in any way related to the coming ARMM elections. True, I am not from the ARMM, but as a native of Mindanao and a former educator, I believe I have the duty to protect the interest of our public school teachers and expose the persons responsible for the missing GSIS premiums. As a party-list representative, my work knows no geographical boundaries. As a representative of the poor and the disadvantaged sector, I am bound to defend and uphold their rights.

I hope that the congressional investigation will also send a signal to the culprits, that Akbayan and the 55 other legislators who signed my resolution, including the 23 legislators from Mindanao and Muslim constituencies, are determined in seeking justice for the teachers and public sector employees who were deprived of their rightful GSIS benefits.

I also urge the teachers and employees of the DepEd-ARMM to continue with their vigilance and help us in resolving this case.

—REP. MARIO JOYO AGUJA,
party-list representative,
Akbayan,
Rm. 514, South Wing,
House of Representatives,
Batasan Hills, QC

'Pre-agreed option'

WE write with reference to two articles written by Conrado R. Banal III. (PDI, 2/12/05 and 11/30/04)

Banal wrote the articles relying solely on information apparently provided to him by Carlos Araneta and LBC Development Corp., with whom we are involved in legal disputes concerning, among others, their refusal to pay ATR Kim Eng's claim of P353.25 million. The claim arose from the listed company's exercise of a pre-agreed option to sell back LBC Global shares to them.

Banal did not get our side and his articles maligned our professional reputation.

We categorically state that ATR did not violate its fiduciary responsibilities as trustee of the TPG Trust Fund and did not violate any law, rule or regulation when it invested the TPG Trust Fund in shares of stock of GE Life.

Under the Trust Agreement, ATR has "full power and authority, without the intervention of TPG," to invest in any property, including shares of stock, provided the investment is in accordance with sound investment principles and SEC rules and regulations.

The investment in GE has proven to be profitable. In 2001, GE paid the TPG Fund a cash dividend of approximately P10 million, thereby reducing the Fund's investment cost from P82.4 million to P72.4 million. Additionally, the value of GE shares has since increased as GE posted profits for the last four years (P14.2 million in 2001, P1.9 million in 2002, P15.8 million in 2003, and P8.1 million in 2004).

The rule that trust funds of pre-need companies must be invested in shares of stock only of listed companies was issued by the SEC on Aug. 16, 2001, to take effect 15 days after its last publication in two newspapers. The TPG Fund signed the Sale and Purchase Agreement with GE Capital International Holdings on May 11, 2001 and was therefore not covered by the said rule.

ATR presented the GE investment to the TPG Board not because its approval was required but only as a matter of prudence. Since board approval was not required, the board could not have imposed any condition for the investment.

On the other hand, the office units comprising the TPG Building could not be sold (or even offered for sale) until the building is converted into a condominium. The HLURB initially disapproved the "condominiumization" of the building due to lack of adequate parking space. ATR had to get the HLURB to reconsider its decision, then completed the requirements of the HLURB for the issuance of a Certificate of Registration and License to Sell. This certificate was issued only on Feb. 1, 2005.

As chair of TPG, Araneta was apprised that the investment of the TPG Fund in GE shares would proceed ahead of the sale of the office units, and he did not raise any objections at that time. In fact, he accepted his election to the GE Life board, as one of two representatives of the TPG Fund. He also participated in the relaunch of the company to insurance brokers on Jan. 17, 2002, several months after the acquisition took place.

We trust that Banal would be made to seek and print our side, together with whatever further press releases Araneta and LBC may make.

—RAMON B. ARNAIZ, chair,
MANUEL N. TORDESILLAS,
president, ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp.,
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Our bank loans will make you fall asleep at night.

BPI Family Savings Bank gives you peace of mind with these low, low housing loan rates:
1 year at 10.75%
2 years at 11.25%
3 years at 11.50%

Plus we guarantee a 12% FIXED interest rate from 5 up to 12 years for Housing and SME Business Loans.

No worrisome ups and downs. No sleepless nights.

This good night's sleep is brought to you by BPI Family Savings Bank.

For Housing Loans,
Call 845-6888 or 89-100

For Provincial inquiries

Bacolod	(034) 433-4328
Cagayan de Oro	(088) 845-5465
Cebu	(032) 415-7600
Dagupan	(075) 515-6250
Davao	(082) 235-3558
Iloilo	(033) 337-4458
Lipa	(043) 757-1000
Naga	(054) 811-1042
Pampanga	(045) 860-5800
San Pablo	(049) 562-3711

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

For SME Business Loans,
Call 754-6476 or 754-6424

For Provincial inquiries

Bacolod	(034) 435-0639
Cagayan de Oro	(088) 856-2902
Cebu	(032) 231-3097
Dagupan	(075) 523-4679
Davao	(082) 235-3560
Iloilo	(033) 337-8025
Naga	(054) 811-1042
Pampanga	(045) 860-5800
San Pablo	(049) 562-0364

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
16-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Furniture makers reel from log ban

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The production costs of at least 882 furniture companies in Central Luzon have more than doubled while 84 exporting firms in the region face the risk of defaulting on delivering orders as prices of wood have gone up by 40 percent.

The increase in prices of raw materials came because of the shortage of supply since the government imposed a total log ban in December last year.

Industry leaders reported this on Tuesday to Undersecretary Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for North Luzon, as they lobbied for a total log ban in protected forests and selective logging in plantation forests under a sustainable forest management program.

"The prolonged total ban exerts pressure on businessmen to continue operations," the regional chapters of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), Philippine Exporters Foundation (PhilExport) and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in a statement submitted to Diaz.

"Should this pressure continue for an indefinite period, jobs will be lost which will impact on the economic condition of the region," the groups said.

According to the CFIP, companies manufacturing furniture, furnishings, house wares and holiday décors are mostly small and medium enterprises and directly employ some 500,000 workers. It said the sub-contracting network accounts for some 1.5 million workers.

IT'S ONE industry that won't need wood. Basket weavers also produce furniture made of rattan in Tayabas, Quezon.
DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Quoting data from the Department of Trade and Industry, Jose Bituin, president of the PhilExport Central Luzon and Betis Crafts, said furniture exports from the region in 2003 amounted to $43.518 million.

Remegio Lastimoso, CFIP Pampanga president, said Pampanga, where 40 percent of the companies are based, accounted for $39.123 million or 89.9 percent of the regional furniture exports.

The DTI said Central Luzon is the third biggest furniture-exporting area after Metro Manila and Cebu.

In a separate statement, CFIP Chair Jose Leo Caparas said the entire industry last year generated export sales of $278 million (P15.6 billion), with domestic sales about equal of that amount.

As the industry buckled under the pressures of the log ban, leaders said the furniture trade fair in Metro Manila drew more than 1,000 buyers or thrice of what it attracted in last year's exhibit.

Diaz said this indicated that the furniture industry continued to generate interest in the international market.

The CFIP said the industry's strengths over competitors in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam were design and craftsmanship.

"Sustainable forest management is what the Philippine forest needs and this is precisely what the legitimate wood-based and wood-producing industries have been practicing. The total log ban punishes the innocent and productive along with the guilty and destructive," the groups said.

The industry leaders, during their meeting with Diaz, emphasized their support for the government's efforts to protect and preserve the forests.

As of 2003, the country's forest cover had dwindled to 7.168 million hectares. In Central Luzon, it was down to 589,495 ha, excluding Aurora's more than 200,000 ha of forests that bore the brunt of last year's landslides blamed on illegal logging there.

"Our appeal is for an equitable approach to the problem that would not literally kill an industry that generates dollar revenues and provides jobs to our people," the groups said.

Diaz said he would take up the industry's concern in next Tuesday's Cabinet meeting.

"The furniture industry in Central Luzon bears the collateral damage to this log ban. We really have to solve their production-related problems through a holistic approach," Diaz told the INQUIRER.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

PNP chief takes closer look at pols' hands in private armies

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—Director General Edgar Aglipay, chief of the Philippine National Police, is studying a confidential report identifying politicians who may face gunrunning and murder charges in relation to the government crackdown on private armed groups in Abra.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Cordillera police director, submitted the document to Aglipay during a news briefing here on Feb. 18, which was attended by two Abra officials.

But this early, Abra mayors have been rallying behind a politician, who was the latest to be accused of a political murder plot.

A government soldier, who is now in hiding, had implicated Abra Gov. Vicente Valera in an assassination plot, which allegedly involved an Army official and other soldiers.

A local newspaper ran on Sunday a manifesto by 21 Abra mayors and four provincial board members who stood by Valera's "integrity and innocence."

Versoza said his report to Aglipay details all of the evidence that is in police custody, which could resolve Abra's political crisis.

President Macapagal-Arroyo formed a task force to investigate an INQUIRER exposé in September last year about the private armed groups maintained by Abra politicians.

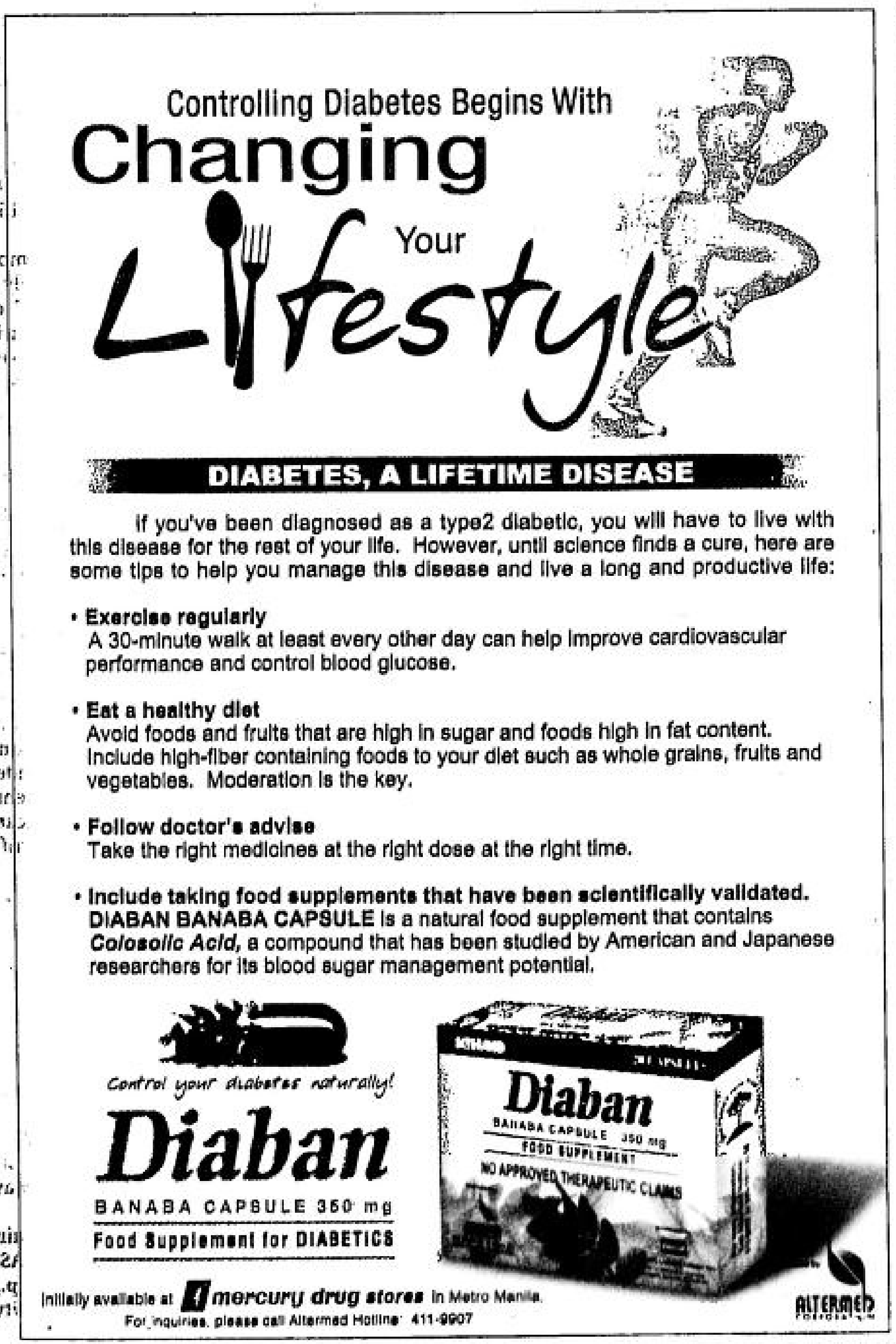
Ms Arroyo was expected to sign a peace accord in December 2004 and signal an end to political hostilities there after politicians agreed to surrender their firearms to Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Versoza's predecessor.

But police officials decided to focus on securing more evidence instead.

Although police have confirmed that politicians supplied their men with high-powered firearms, the officials surrendered outdated rifles and handguns instead.

An Armed Forces investigation of a military-led assassination squad supposedly hired by Valera appears connected to the private armies.

A soldier claimed that he and another colleague were hired by Valera through Army Lt. Col. Noel Mislang to murder Lagayan Mayor Cecilia Luna.



Controlling Diabetes Begins With
Changing Your Lifestyle

DIABETES, A LIFETIME DISEASE

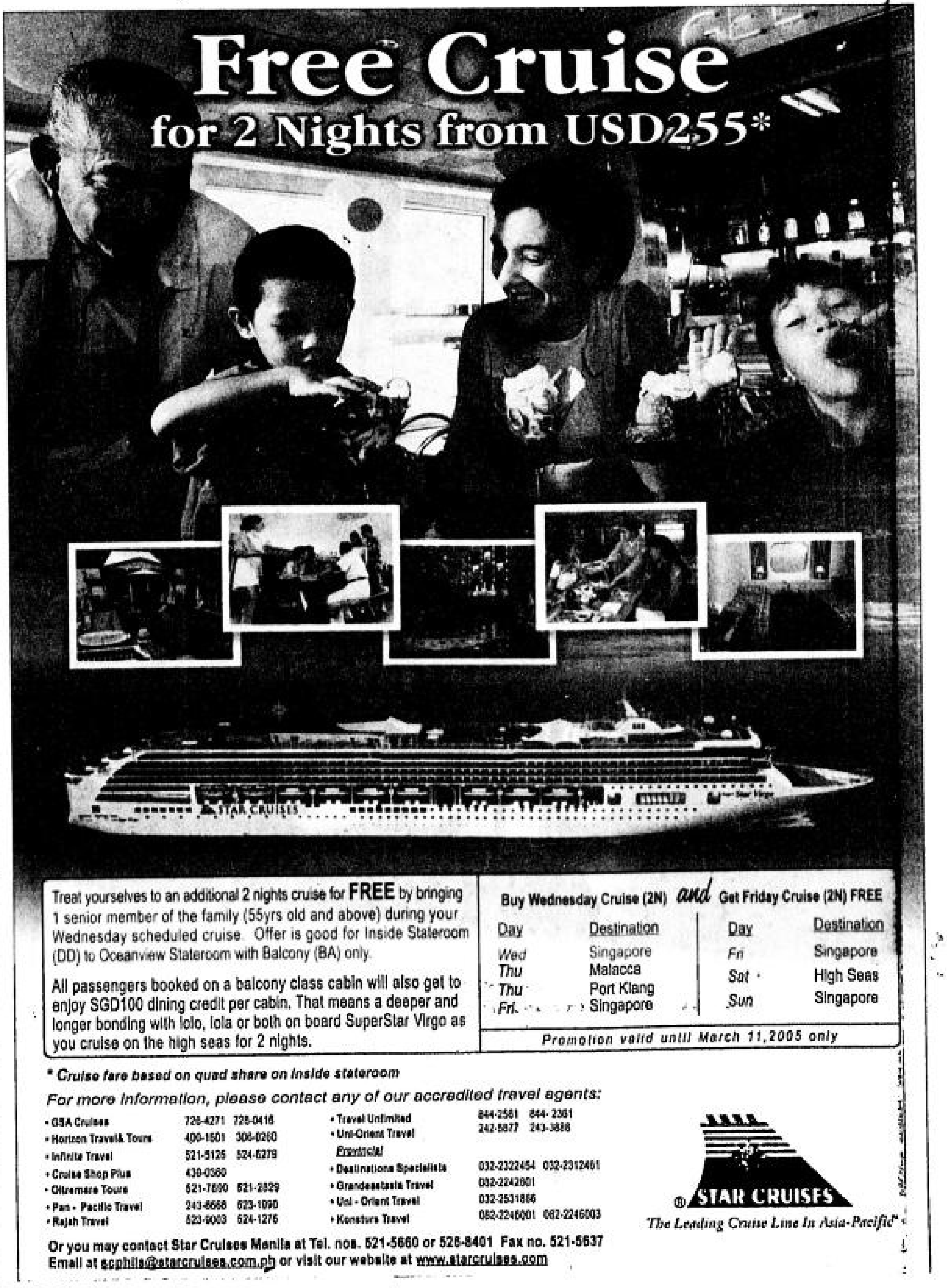
If you've been diagnosed as a type2 diabetic, you will have to live with this disease for the rest of your life. However, until science finds a cure, here are some tips to help you manage this disease and live a long and productive life:

- **Exercise regularly**
  A 30-minute walk at least every other day can help improve cardiovascular performance and control blood glucose.
- **Eat a healthy diet**
  Avoid foods and fruits that are high in sugar and foods high in fat content. Include high-fiber containing foods to your diet such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Moderation is the key.
- **Follow doctor's advise**
  Take the right medicines at the right dose at the right time.
- **Include taking food supplements that have been scientifically validated.**
  DIABAN BANABA CAPSULE is a natural food supplement that contains *Colosolic Acid,* a compound that has been studied by American and Japanese researchers for its blood sugar management potential.

Control your diabetes naturally!
Diaban
BANABA CAPSULE 350 mg
Food Supplement for DIABETICS

Initially available at mercury drug stores in Metro Manila.
For inquiries, please call Altermed Hotline: 411-9907

Diaban
BANABA CAPSULE 350 mg
FOOD SUPPLEMENT
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
ALTERMED



Free Cruise
for 2 Nights from USD255*

Treat yourselves to an additional 2 nights cruise for **FREE** by bringing 1 senior member of the family (55yrs old and above) during your Wednesday scheduled cruise. Offer is good for Inside Stateroom (DD) to Oceanview Stateroom with Balcony (BA) only.

All passengers booked on a balcony class cabin will also get to enjoy SGD100 dining credit per cabin. That means a deeper and longer bonding with lolo, lola or both on board SuperStar Virgo as you cruise on the high seas for 2 nights.

Buy Wednesday Cruise (2N) *and* Get Friday Cruise (2N) FREE

Day	Destination	Day	Destination
Wed	Singapore	Fri	Singapore
Thu	Malacca	Sat	High Seas
Thu	Port Klang	Sun	Singapore
Fri.	Singapore		

Promotion valid until March 11,2005 only

** Cruise fare based on quad share on inside stateroom*

For more information, please contact any of our accredited travel agents:

• GSA Cruises	726-4271	726-0416
• Horizon Travel& Tours	400-1501	306-0260
• Infinite Travel	521-5126	524-6279
• Cruise Shop Plus	430-0360	
• Oltremare Tours	521-7690	521-2829
• Pan - Pacific Travel	243-6668	523-1090
• Rajah Travel	523-9003	524-1276
• Travel Unlimited	844-2561	844-2361
• Uni-Orient Travel	242-5877	243-3888
Provincial		
• Destinations Specialists	032-2322454	032-2312461
• Grandeestasia Travel	032-2242801	
• Uni - Orient Travel	032-2531866	
• Konsture Travel	082-2246001	082-2246003

Or you may contact Star Cruises Manila at Tel. nos. 521-5660 or 526-8401 Fax no. 521-5637
Email at scphils@starcruises.com.ph or visit our website at www.starcruises.com

® STAR CRUISES
The Leading Cruise Line In Asia-Pacific

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Coconut authorities offer alternative fuel for mining

BAGUIO CITY—The government's lackluster crusade to popularize the coconut fuel as an alternative energy source is now being offered to the mining industry, the INQUIRER learned here on Wednesday.

The Philippine Coconut Authority and producers of coconut methyl ester (CME) are studying mine drilling and processing equipment that use diesel because their product can reduce diesel-fed pollution substantially, said Aldrin Magpantay, product representative of Chemrez Inc., a CME manufacturer.

Robert Ables, PCA biological fuel expert, said the government has not been successful in advocating CME's benefits to motorists.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued Memorandum Circular 55 directing all government agencies to mix 1 percent of CME in its regular diesel consumption, but few have heeded her call "because they have no money to buy the fuel additive," Ables told the INQUIRER.

The country's oil industry also objected to the commercial sale of CME, saying the coconut derivative "could endanger the oil industry's existing retail infrastructure," Ables said.

He said DOE calculations indicate that gasoline firms stand to lose P1.6 billion (the retail value of 70 million liters of gasoline that will be displaced by 1 percent of CME) should every motorist use the alternative fuel.

He said coconut planters also objected to the CME program because they believed that producing CME ate into industries relying on coconut oil and coconut lumber.

He said the Department of Energy is collating the stakeholders' response to CME after it was piloted in the city in March 2004.

He said a technical group may recommend it instead to other industries like mining to provide CME a steady customer while the government studies how to make the fuel acceptable to the public.

Baguio was selected to test CME by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives as a member of its Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program because 62 percent of its pollution come from motor vehicles.

Baguio was again launched on Wednesday as the first member of the US-led Sustainable Energy Development Program's (SEDP) Clean Cities campaign, which advocates environmental fuels to communities that the World Bank had identified in a 2001 survey as "pollution-challenged."

The Kyoto Protocol has made pollution reduction in the country an imperative, said Divina Chingcuanco, SEDP country director.

Although the country's commitment to the world's unified environmental document does not oblige it to reduce carbon dioxide emissions this early, the Kyoto Protocol compels the Philippines to initiate pollution-remedies, said Victor Aquitania, the city planning officer assigned to supervise Baguio's Clean Cities projects.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon said the city government would lead in using coco diesel by requiring government vehicles to use coco diesel.

He also said that the city government would make up for the insufficient fund by disseminating information about the benefits of using coco diesel.

The PCA said coco fuel might be the key to ensuring that mining remains environmentally sustainable.

Magpantay said modern mining equipment should be compatible with CME. *Vincent Cabreza with reports from Aprille Joy Fernandez and Jiezl Reotutar, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 jail guards charged with escape of drug suspect

BUTUAN CITY—Police have filed criminal and administrative charges against two prison guards tagged as responsible in the Dec. 15 escape of Mutalib Ameril Sadiaton, the No. 1 drug suspect in the Caraga Region.

Supt. Benhur Mongao, regional chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), identified the prison guards as Andie Grana and Patric Art Morales.

Two other civilian suspects were also charged.

Mongao said Grana and Morales, who were guarding Sadiaton inside his detention cell at the Agusan del Norte Provincial Jail, "let loose their guards" paving the way for the drug suspect to escape.

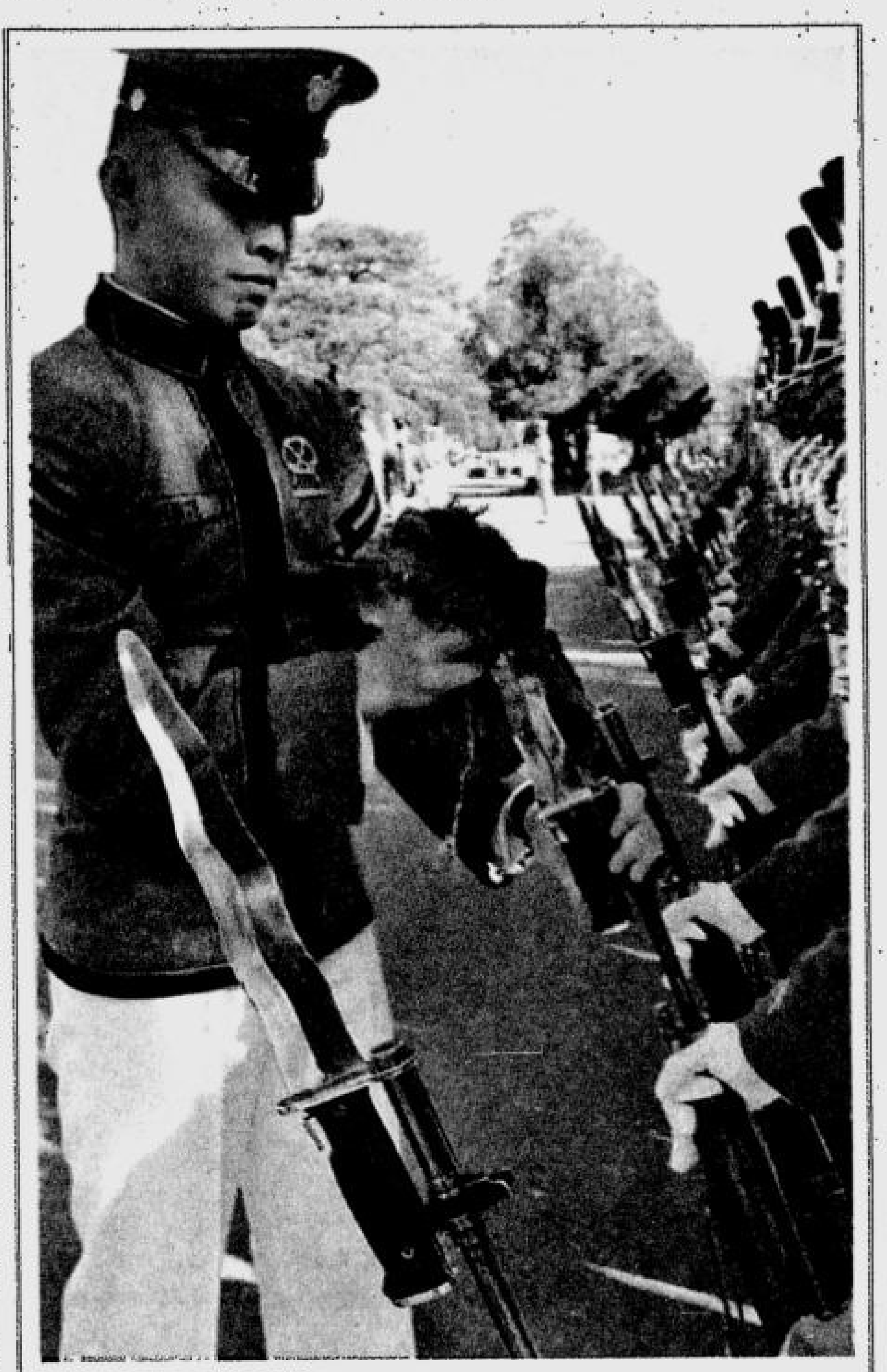
"There was apparent laxity, Grana and Morales really facilitated Sadiaton in his escape," Mongao said.

Sadiaton was arrested in an entrapment operation by members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in 2002.

Supt. Glenn de la Torre, regional director of PDEA, who earlier described the escape as "stupid," welcomed the filing of charges against Grana and Morales.

De la Torre said the prison guards must be "prosecuted" for the crimes they allegedly committed.

He admitted that the drug suspect's escape caused "demoralization" among his men. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



GLEAMING BAYONETS TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A senior cadet officer polishes the bayonets of cadets from the honor guard battalion of the Philippine Military Academy, who were preparing for rites at the recent annual PMA homecoming in Fort del Pilar in Baguio City.

Baguio execs assure city safe from meningo during flower fest

By Donna Demetillo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Braulio Yaranon and health officials here have reassured tourists and residents that the city is safe from the bacterial disease meningococcemia as Baguio celebrates the 10th Baguio flower festival.

Several cases of meningococcal disease have been reported in the city since the Department of Health lowered the alert status on the city on Jan. 24.

"The key is vigilance. We are not meningo-free but the cases are sporadic. Vigilance means avoid coughing, sneezing, spitting [in public places]. And for any flu-like symptom felt, a patient must promptly go to medical authorities. Anybody who has come in close contact with suspected cases must take (antibiotic) treatment. The vigilance we observed during the height of the crisis should be the same now," Yaranon said during a briefing.

Dr. Florence Reyes, chief of the Baguio health department, said they have tapped barangay officials in the city to lead the massive information drive on meningococcemia.

Reyes said they have instructed barangay officials to ensure that all tourists in their areas are safe from the disease.

Yaranon also said the city has more than an ample supply of antibiotics.

"There is sufficient stock at hand and we can always purchase more. In fact, we have even offered medicines to other areas in the Cordillera. We are willing to share not only expertise but also our stock of prophylactic [medicines]," he said.

Health officials said hospitals in the city are now more capable of detecting the meningococcal bacteria in the laboratory.

"There are more confirmed cases now because of enhanced laboratory equipment. Almost all reference hospitals are now more capable [of detecting the bacteria]. The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center is now highly capable of culturing samples to confirm the presence of the bacteria," said Dr. Ramoncito Navarro, medical specialist of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center.

Navarro said suspected cases have also increased because of an increased awareness and sensitivity to meningococcemia.

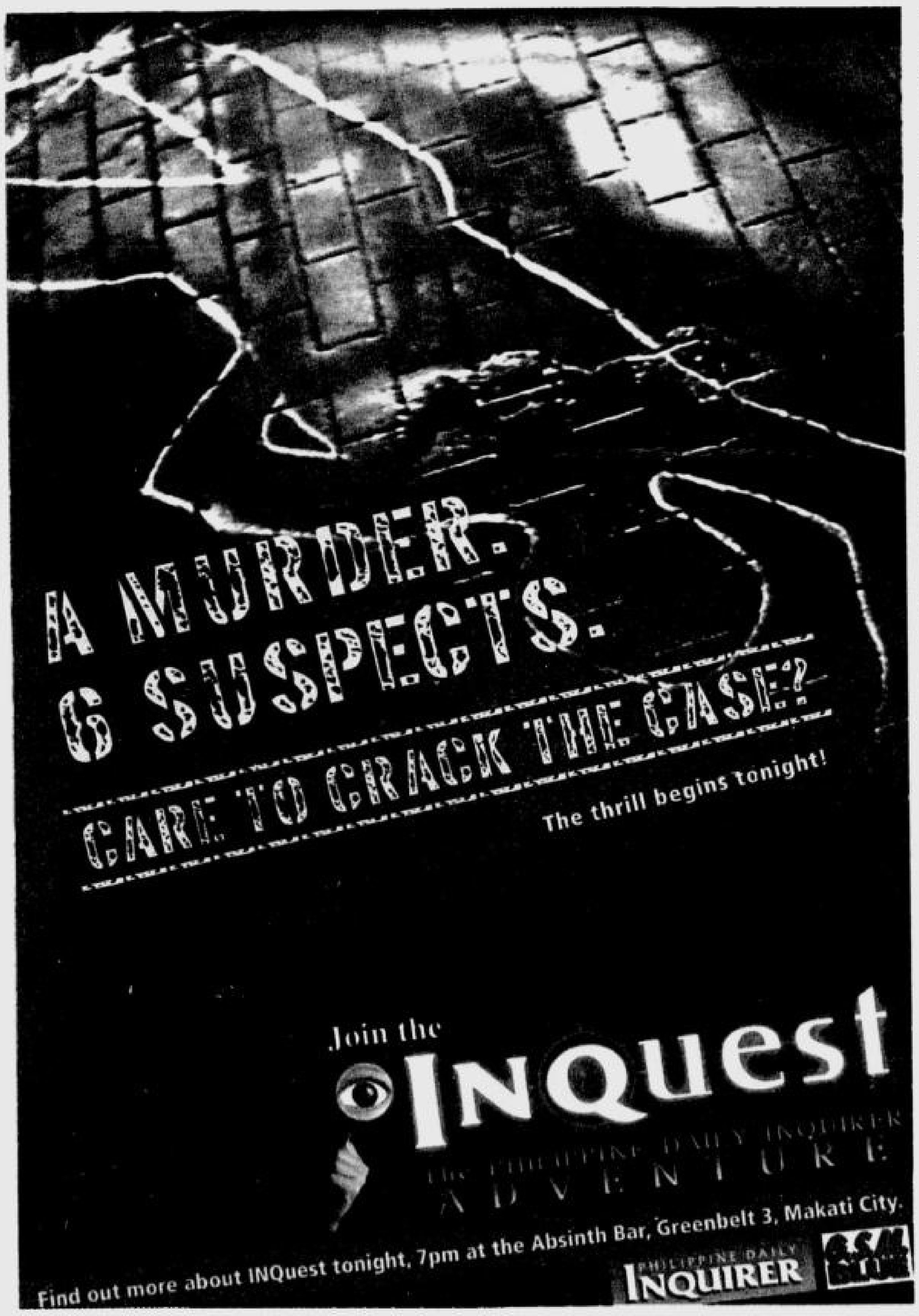
Since the alert was lowered on Jan. 24, health officials said nine laboratory-confirmed cases had been recorded. Two of these patients died.

Health officials said six cases have been confirmed in Benguet and nine in Mt. Province.

"We do expect cases to continue to occur, but this is the tail end of the crisis. And the relative risk for contracting the disease is very low and should not pose a special concern for visitors, especially [those planning to attend the festivities at the] Panagbenga (flower festival)," said Dr. Antonio Bautista, medical specialist of the DOH Cordillera.

The Panagbenga, which started on Feb. 12, continues to draw more visitors to the city, officials said.

The highlights of the festival, the street dancing parade ("Flower Power") and the floral floats parade ("Flowers on the Go"), will be held on Saturday (Feb. 26) and Sunday (Feb. 27), respectively.



A MURDER. 6 SUSPECTS. CARE TO CRACK THE CASE?
The thrill begins tonight!
Join the INQUEST
The Philippine Daily Inquirer ADVENTURE
Find out more about INQuest tonight, 7pm at the Absinth Bar, Greenbelt 3, Makati City.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Win a cellcard daily and a cellphone weekly!
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot.
Ang premyo:
Cellcard kada araw!
Cellphone kada linggo!
This week's prize

Tanong ng Bayan
INQ TV
ABC
I-type lang ang:
INQTV < inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <edad>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, at ipadala sa 2910. Winners will be identified on InqTV ,Thursdays on ABC.
Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 4pm
text 2910
May saysay pa ba ang EDSA I?
For Sun, Smart and Globe subscribers
Congrats, Rafael Sanchez ng Quezon City!
Nanalo ka ng P500 load!
"lumaki akong malaya dhil s edsa 1 at mraming bansa ang gumaya at nkinabang wag ntin alisan ng saysay ito, ksama dun mga magulang ko"
Tumawag lamang sa 8978808 at hanapin si Leslie Perez o si Dennis Leung.
Cellcard kada araw, cellphone kada linggo! Text na!

INQBox
Question of the Week
What are your memories of EDSA/People Power 1?
Win this *Inquirer mug
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBox wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! 0
Key in: inquirer box name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Bishop warns of violence in ore-rich upland area

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena has warned that violence will erupt in an upland village, site of the proposed gold-copper project, if the government continues to push the operations of a foreign mining company there.

Villena quoted residents of Barangay Didipio in upland Kasibu town as saying they were becoming desperate over the government's alleged disregard of their plight.

"The people there are becoming restless. They are becoming so frustrated that the government continues to insist on having the mining project," he said.

Gov't support

Villena was referring to the support being supposedly extended by the government to the renewed bid of Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC), an Australian company, to conduct large-scale mining in Barangay Didipio.

According to the proponents, CAMC's Didipio gold-copper project is expected to yield an estimated four million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion ounces of copper deposits.

Didipio villagers, mostly Ifugao and Kalanguya settlers and members of environment and civil society organizations, have been opposing the project due to its alleged lack of endorsement from affected communities.

"This has been the worst part of this controversy—that Didipio is now divided because of mining. If [pro-mining groups] are going to continue pushing the project, there might be bloodshed. My God, that's enough," Villena said.

Mining ends

He assailed government officials for 'acting like agents of Arimco," and for "ramming [the mining project] down the throat of the people."

Villena earlier questioned the issuance by former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to the CAMC project, despite the unresolved issue of its acceptability among Didipio residents.

The bishop said the government should be cautious in endorsing the project and should consult the people who would be affected by it.

"Only then can they know the truth, and that is, that the people want the land for agriculture," he said.

Jerrysal Mangaoang, regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, downplayed Villena's concerns. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

FEAR OF ARMY, NPA CLASH

Mangyan evacuation in Mindoro continues

By Madonna Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MAMBURAO, Occidental Mindoro—Eleven Iraya Mangyan families living in Sitio Taguan, Barangay San Luis have evacuated to the chapel and the public school as a result of ongoing clashes between government troopers and New People's Army rebels.

This brought to about 300 the total of Mangyan families that have evacuated in Occidental Mindoro.

Attend school

The chapel is by the roadside while the school is some 1.1 km going to the interior. It is where Mangyan children, aged 7-14 and in Grades 1 and 2, attend school.

In Calintaan town, about 140 km from this town, there were already at least 280 Mangyan families that had evacuated from 10 sitios, said Lagtum Pasag, National Commission for Indigenous Peoples commissioner, a Hanunuo Mangyan.

Fear of crossfire

From two sitios in Barangay Poypoy, Calintaan alone, 91 Taubuhid Mangyan families had evacuated as of yesterday.

The Mangyans fled their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire, Pasag added.

"They continue to come down," said Norman Novio, a staffer of the Social Services Commission of the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose, who was at the Calintaan evacuation site.

The Church was the first to assist the Mangyans there.

Distributed relief goods

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and NCIP followed.

Occidental Mindoro Gov. Josephine Sato-Ramirez and Calintaan mayor Renato Paulino also distributed relief goods yesterday.

Relief operations were going on.

The evacuation in Barangay San Luis, whose old name was Barangay Ligang, happened as a result of the intense fighting between government troopers and the rebels after a seven-man team of the military had what the military termed as a "meeting engagement" or chance encounter with a 30-member NPA unit on Feb. 19.

Ambush

Both Mangyan and non-Mangyans, who were interviewed by the INQUIRER, however, claimed that an Elf truck of the military was ambushed at about 1:30 p.m. on that day.

"We were afraid, there were lots of gunfire . . . we heard eight bombs exploded . . . the trees were destroyed and there was smoke. We could no longer work," said Sixto Hinalman, acting leader of the displaced tribal community.

"The shootings and bombings lasted until about 3 p.m., my 17 pupils dropped down, with their faces on the floor . . . we were praying . . . many were crying," said teacher Michelle Alcayde.

The Mangyan parents said they were worried about their children who were at the school when shots were fired.

Facility lack excluded Negros from ad campaign

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Some provinces have been excluded from the promotion of the Department of Tourism (DOT)'s travel advocacy campaign, "I love Philippines Biyahe Na," because they lack the facilities.

This was the explanation of Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano after some mayors in Negros Oriental complained over the exclusion of their province from the DOT's marketing drive to invite domestic tourists and *balikbayans* to go travel in the country.

Without naming names, Durano said the DOT is now helping these "unprepared provinces" to develop their areas as tourist destinations.

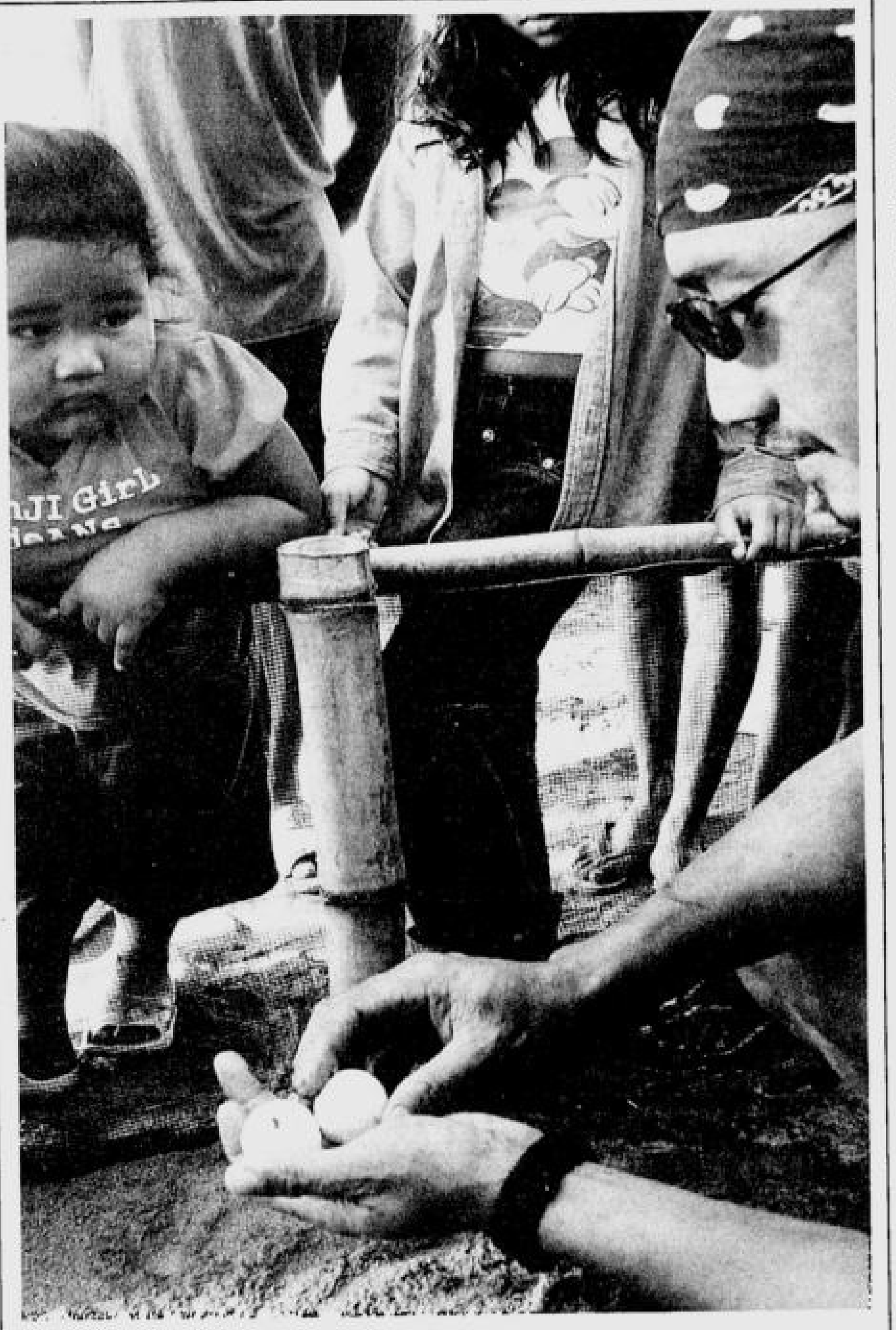
Durano said he decided not to include these provinces in the campaign because these lacked the facilities that could provide the needs of tourists.

If the DOT would promote these provinces, he added, the tourists would later discover that they could not be accommodated due to lack of facilities and would later blame the tourism department.

Durano pointed out that those provinces seen in the commercials are prepared to accept these tourists because they have the facilities.

Several mayors in Negros Oriental were disappointed over the exclusion of the province from the DOT's promotions on "I love Philippines Biyahe Na."

Dumaguete City Mayor Agustin Perdices even thumbed down requests to display the streamers in his city, which promoted the different tourist destinations.



LEARNING PROCESS PHOTO FROM SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

Two-year-old Jael Grace Bascuna's attention is focused as her father, Jerry, explains the life cycle of marine turtles in Barangay Dos Poblacion in Maitum, Sarangani. Her father and a group of children recently saved from slaughter a Hawksbill's turtle and released it to the sea.

ROUNDUP

Pangasinan cops awarded

SALAMAT Po!
#1

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Pangasinan police swept the unit awards during the 14th Philippine National Police anniversary in the Ilocos on Friday. The Pangasinan police command was cited as the best provincial police office; Dagupan City, best city police station; and Mangaldan town, best police station in the rural category. The Dagupan and Mangaldan police offices were cited for their women and children concern desk, and Alaminos City for the best provincial mobile group (106th PMG). Supt. Edgar Basbas, Pangasinan deputy police director, said the province edged the police offices of La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte in the PNP's performance evaluation rating in the first, second and fourth quarters last year. ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cargo exec killed

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao—An unidentified man shot dead a supervisor of a cargo forwarder here Sunday night in what police believed was a case of personal grudge. Nelson Lapaz, 43, supervisor of Fast Cargo forwarder, was driving his vehicle and stopped in Barangay Crossing Simuay at about 7 p.m. He alighted from his car to allegedly meet a man. Suddenly, several gunshots were heard as Lapaz fell. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Ban on bird hunting

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Pampanga Mayors' League (PML) has approved a resolution asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to prohibit the hunting of all species of migratory birds in Pampanga, particularly in the Candaba Swamp. The resolution asked the DENR to go after those who hunt, trap, and sell migratory birds. The PML said the protection of migratory birds would boost this province's bid to become an eco-tourism destination. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Man nabbed for theft

DAGUPAN CITY—Police arrested a man accused of stealing cell phones from residents in Barangay Nueva here on Saturday. Police said Benemar Callonton, 36, was identified by one of the victims when he returned to the store where he allegedly stole several cell phones in August and October last year. Investigators said Callonton posed as a customer who convinced the owners to exchange their cell phones to top-of-the-line units he had with him. However, the cell phone deals turned out to be bogus. ***Eric Montoya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

3 bodies found

CABANATUAN CITY—Police are clueless on the killing of three people whose bodies were found on Sunday at a soft drinks company warehouse in Barangay San Isidro. Each of the bodies suffered at least 15 stab wounds. Supt. Jesus Gordon Descanzo, chief of police, identified the victims as Melchor Bataoil of Lingayen, Pangasinan; Joel Lingod of Bamban, Tarlac; and Rolando de la Cruz of Marilao, Bulacan. Bataoil was a forklift operator while the two others were security guards stationed in the warehouse. Descanzo said the bodies were discovered when the sales office manager visited the compound. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Inmate beaten up

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—An inmate, serving a 4-year sentence for a drug offense, landed in a hospital after six jail guards allegedly beat him up on Feb. 12. The victim, Fidel Castro, who is now confined in a private hospital, told reporters that prior to the beating, he figured in a brawl with a fellow inmate over food ration. The night before, jail guards summoned him to the office where he was beaten up and tortured, he said. The court issued an order allowing Castro to seek medical treatment. But Supt. Amil Amin, city jail warden, denied the allegation. Amin said Castro was penalized for smuggling liquor into his cell. Amin said his men just ordered Castro to do push-ups and squat. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Grassroots mining confab

CITY OF CALAPAN—The first national grassroots conference on mining will be held in Boac, Marinduque today and tomorrow. The meeting, with the theme "Empowering Communities to Confront the Threats of Mining," is expected to be a venue for sharing the impacts of mining, drawing lessons from their experiences and organizing a concerted advocacy, according to a news release. The conference was organized by the Foundation for Philippine Environment, Haribon Foundation, Philippine Federation for Environmental Concerns, Center for Environmental Concerns, National Secretariat for Social Action, Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment and Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center

Judge orders exhumation of body of slain cult head's wife

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Regional Trial Court has ordered the exhumation of the body of Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, wife of cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. who stands accused of killing her, to put to rest questions about the identity of the corpse found in Dalaguete town, Cebu in 2002.

RTC Judge Geraldine Econg granted the motion of the private prosecution during the hearing on Monday, despite the opposition of Ecleo's lawyers.

She found merit in the request made by the private prosecutors that Alona's remains be exhumed, so a DNA and dental examination could be conducted to establish the identity of the corpse found in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete.

"The court must give equal opportunities to both the prosecution and defense to bring their evidence. It is therefore not just for interest of justice but more of the obligation of the court to afford the prosecution and defense the right to present their evidence," the judge said.

The court tentatively scheduled the exhumation on March 3 depending on the availability of experts who would exhume and extract samples from the corpse to be submitted to a DNA test.

Experts sought

Econg, the sixth judge to handle the sensational case, suggested to both parties that they would tap the expertise and technical services of the University of the Philippines and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Ecleo, the supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, is facing parricide charges for allegedly killing his wife in January 2002.

He has been out on a P1 million bail since last year to allow him to get medical help for his heart ailment.

Last Feb. 15, the prosecutor's team, composed of officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, filed the motion to exhume Alona's remains after the defense refused to admit during the case's pre-trial conference that the body recovered in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete town belonged to Alona.

But Orlando Salatandre, Ecleo's lead defense counsel, opposed the motion, saying the exhumation would only delay the trial of the case.

He also said the defense had not yet questioned the identity of the body recovered in Dalaguete town.

Salatandre also questioned the applicability and reliability of DNA testing in the country.

Obligation

But Econg said it was the court's obligation to afford both parties the right to present their pieces of evidence.

She said the exhumation, and the deferment of the filing of the formal offer of exhibits by the prosecution, would not delay the case.

Econg also cited several jurisprudence were the Supreme Court ruled the reliability of DNA tests to establish the identities of dead bodies.

Plan to haul nickel ore divides island residents

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

MANICANI ISLAND, Guiuan, Eastern Samar—Tension has gripped this mineral rich-island, as residents are divided on whether to allow the Hinatuan Mining Corp. to haul its more than 100,000 metric tons of nickel ore stockpiled in Barangay Buenavista.

Several residents have been barricading the dock since Feb. 14 to prevent the mining firm from hauling its nickel ore out of the island.

A dialogue was held early Sunday at the barangay plaza to ease the tension but it bogged down after the opposing parties held on to their stance.

Among those who mediated were Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma, police regional office-Eastern Visayas director; Leonardo Sibbaluca, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Eastern Visayas (DENR-8) director; Guiuan Mayor Annaliz Kwan and representatives of the HMC.

Coloma said he deployed 16 policemen from the Regional Mobile Group to Manicani "to ensure and maintain peace and order in the area."

"I told my policemen to disengage from any matters relative to the mining issue," he said.

But several residents were against the hauling of the ore because HMC management did not give them any assurance that this would not be used as an excuse for the mining company to resume mining operations.

They said they did not want HMC to resume operations because its mining operations in the past had resulted in "massive environmental destruction on the island."

"Any economic benefit that could be derived by just a few individuals on the island is not sufficient compared to the destruction brought about by the mining (operation) conducted by the HMC," Buenavista Barangay Chair Manuel Sumuok told the INQUIRER.

But Romeo Projano, Banaag barangay chair, said many Manicani residents would be employed if the HMC would be allowed to haul its nickel ore.

"I am for the hauling of these stockpile and for the resumption of the mining operations as well. It helps us provide job other than fishing and farming," he said.

Projano said that last December, he worked at the HMC as an "ore breaker" and received a salary of P198 per day.

He also debunked claims that the mining operations on their island had resulted in environmental destruction.

The Manicani Island is the second largest in the municipality of Guiuan. It has four barangays—Banaag, San Jose, Buenavista and Hamorawon.

In 1991, the HMC was granted a permit to mine for nickel in Manicani for 25 years and with a total mining area of 1,164.53 hectares. Nickel is one of the primary minerals used in stainless steel manufacturing.

Its president, Salvador Zamora II, is a brother of San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

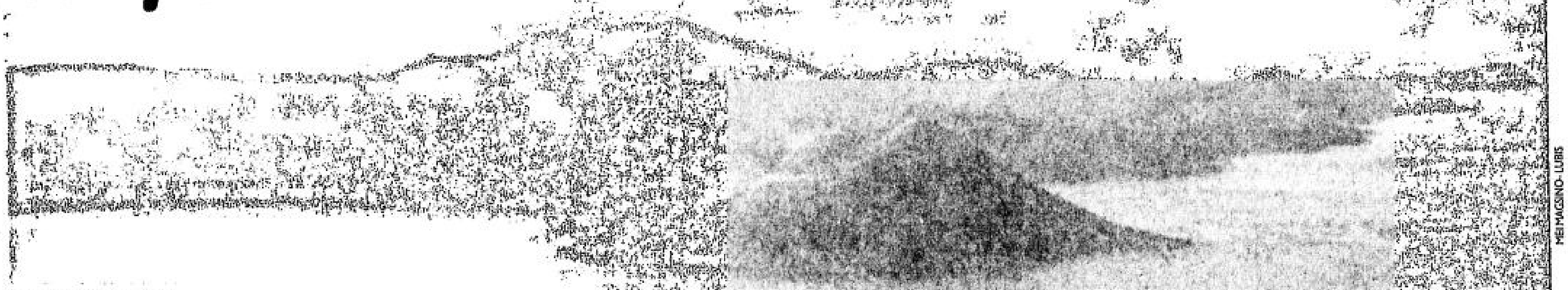
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Mayors unite to conserve Taal Lake


MEI MAGSINO-LUBIS

TAAL Lake as viewed from Tagaytay City.

By Mei Magsino-Lubis
Sta. Teresita, Batangas

TAAL, the deepest lake in the Philippines and the third largest with an area of 23 sq km, is being threatened by large-scale illegal fishing, inappropriate development for tourism and settlements on the Tagaytay ridge, and solid waste and agricultural runoff.

A study of the Tanggol Kalikasan (TK), a public interest environmental law office, shows that the number of floating cages of cultured *tilapia* and *bangus* (milkfish) have increased, threatening endemic species in the lake and causing pollution.

Decayed fish feeds are depleting the lake's supply of dissolved oxygen, it says, while discarded feed bags litter the waters.

The study warned that tapping a billion cubic meters of lake water for irrigation and urban use could weaken the ecosystem, which supports a variety of marine life, and restrict aquatic migration.

Realizing urgent action to counter the threats, mayors of the 10 towns and three cities surrounding Taal signed a covenant to conserve and protect one of the world's most active volcanoes on Jan. 26 at the Sta. Teresita municipal covered court.

The move, initiated by the TK, aimed to ensure pollution control, regulated operations of fish cages, and the apprehension of illegal fishers in the lake. Hopefully, the measures will result in the return of endemic fishes that have been on the country's list of vanishing species for decades.

Lawyer Asis Perez, TK area director, said the covenant should have been signed several years ago, but he was positive that the effort was not yet too late.

Signatories

Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto of Lipa City was the first to sign the covenant on Jan. 21. Other city mayors who signed it are Abraham Tolentino of Tagaytay and Alfredo Corona of Tanauan.

The rest of the mayor-signatories were Glorioso Martinez of Agoncillo, David Pamplona of Balete, Danilo Sombrano of Mataas na Kahoy, Adorlito Ginete of Sta. Teresita, Guillermo Reyes of Alitagtag, Enrique Comia of Cuenca, Cristeta Reyes of Malvar, Napoleon Arceo of San Nicolas, and Florencio Manimtim Jr. of Talisay.

Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez challenged the local chief executives to put their covenant into action.

"When you signed that covenant to conserve Taal Volcano, you have already committed yourself," Sanchez told the mayors in a speech.

"In Batangas, your word means action because your governor wants things done as they should be. Gone are the days of broken promises," he added.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor was represented by his regional director, Ernesto Adobo.

Taal Lake

Taal Lake is located within a complex volcanic area. A small volcanic island lies in the middle of the lake, which has been the site of 33 documented volcanic eruptions since 1572.

The island is a main viewing attraction of tourists from the Tagaytay ridge and Mt. Maculot.

Taal Volcano itself has a lake of its own inside the crater.

A 1927 fish inventory of Taal Lake identified 76 migratory species and many endemic species. But a 1995 study showed only 15 species of migratory fish and only four endemic fish species remaining in the lake.

In 2002, the volume of *tawilis*, a freshwater herring found only in Taal Lake and which the fishermen used to catch by the tons, had been reduced to less than a thousand.

The sensitive fish was the first to die due to frequent temperature changes and water pollution brought by wasted feeds in the big fish cages.

Freshwater sharks used to thrive in the lake before they were totally driven away as a result of overfishing in the 1930s.

Rosa Macas, regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said 30 percent of the fish feeds settled at the bottom of the fish cages. When the feeds rot, they deplete the oxygen level of the waters, threatening fish species.

Aside from the tawilis, the endemic fishes that are endangered are the *duhol* or sea snake, *maliputo* (freshwater mackerel), *igat* (freshwater eel), the three-millimeter pygmy goby (*Pandaca pigmaea*), *apta* and *yapya* (freshwater prawns), and the *paros* and *suso*, two types of mollusks.

Protected landscape

The government declared Taal Lake a national park on July 22, 1967, through Presidential Proclamation 235.

In 1996, it was declared a protected landscape under the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems Act.

Three lake-wide institutions authorized by different laws share the governance of the lake. These are the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) under the protected areas law, the Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Board under the Fisheries Code, and the Lakewide Development Council.

But the only entity that has undergone a management planning was the Presidential Commission on Tagaytay-Taal in 1993, which was abolished in 2000 allegedly because the PAMB had already been created.

Because of the number of management bodies exercising overlapping jurisdictions over the lake, they are unlikely to make any dent on the major issues affecting it.

The Kilusan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taal, a lake-wide organization, has also been helping to conserve the lake during the last 18 years.

FAMILY PLANNING BA? NATURAL!
Isang paraang safe, effective... at garantisado?

INQ TV
INQ TV
INQ TV

Sa INQREDIBLE PINOY — Nanay na, guro pa
Making great things possible Globe
Sa BYLINE INQUIRER — Omnijournalist: Ang mamamahayag ng 21st century
Sa TANONG NG BAYAN — May saysay pa ba ang EDSA I?

Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Tuwing Huwebes, alas-11 ng gabi,
pagkatapos ng American Idol! Dito lang sa ABC
HOPE Globe HANDYPHONE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Mayors unite to conserve Taal Lake

MEI MAGSINO-LUBIS

TAAL Lake as viewed from Tagaytay City.

By Mei Magsino-Lubis
Sta. Teresita, Batangas

TAAL, the deepest lake in the Philippines and the third largest with an area of 23 sq km, is being threatened by large-scale illegal fishing, inappropriate development for tourism and settlements on the Tagaytay ridge, and solid waste and agricultural runoff.

A study of the Tanggol Kalikasan (TK), a public interest environmental law office, shows that the number of floating cages of cultured *tilapia* and *bangus* (milkfish) have increased, threatening endemic species in the lake and causing pollution.

Decayed fish feeds are depleting the lake's supply of dissolved oxygen, it says, while discarded feed bags litter the waters.

The study warned that tapping a billion cubic meters of lake water for irrigation and urban use could weaken the ecosystem, which supports a variety of marine life, and restrict aquatic migration.

Realizing urgent action to counter the threats, mayors of the 10 towns and three cities surrounding Taal signed a covenant to conserve and protect one of the world's most active volcanoes on Jan. 26 at the Sta. Teresita municipal covered court.

The move, initiated by the TK, aimed to ensure pollution control, regulated operations of fish cages, and the apprehension of illegal fishers in the lake. Hopefully, the measures will result in the return of endemic fishes that have been on the country's list of vanishing species for decades.

Lawyer Asis Perez, TK area director, said the covenant should have been signed several years ago, but he was positive that the effort was not yet too late.

Signatories

Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto of Lipa City was the first to sign the covenant on Jan. 21. Other city mayors who signed it are Abraham Tolentino of Tagaytay and Alfredo Corona of Tanauan.

The rest of the mayor-signatories were Glorioso Martinez of Agoncillo, David Pamplona of Balete, Danilo Sombrano of Mataas na Kahoy, Adorlito Ginete of Sta. Teresita, Guillermo Reyes of Alitagtag, Enrique Comia of Cuenca, Cristeta Reyes of Malvar, Napoleon Arceo of San Nicolas, and Florencio Manimtim Jr. of Talisay.

Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez challenged the local chief executives to put their covenant into action.

"When you signed that covenant to conserve Taal Volcano, you have already committed yourself," Sanchez told the mayors in a speech.

"In Batangas, your word means action because your governor wants things done as they should be. Gone are the days of broken promises," he added.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor was represented by his regional director, Ernesto Adobo.

Taal Lake

Taal Lake is located within a complex volcanic area. A small volcanic island lies in the middle of the lake, which has been the site of 33 documented volcanic eruptions since 1572.

The island is a main viewing attraction of tourists from the Tagaytay ridge and Mt. Maculot.

Taal Volcano itself has a lake of its own inside the crater.

A 1927 fish inventory of Taal Lake identified 76 migratory species and many endemic species. But a 1995 study showed only 15 species of migratory fish and only four endemic fish species remaining in the lake.

In 2002, the volume of *tawilis*, a freshwater herring found only in Taal Lake and which the fishermen used to catch by the tons, had been reduced to less than a thousand.

The sensitive fish was the first to die due to frequent temperature changes and water pollution brought by wasted feeds in the big fish cages.

Freshwater sharks used to thrive in the lake before they were totally driven away as a result of overfishing in the 1930s.

Rosa Macas, regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said 30 percent of the fish feeds settled at the bottom of the fish cages. When the feeds rot, they deplete the oxygen level of the waters, threatening fish species.

Aside from the tawilis, the endemic fishes that are endangered are the *duhol* or sea snake, *maliputo* (freshwater mackerel), *igat* (freshwater eel), the three-millimeter pygmy goby (*Pandaca pigmaea*), *apta* and *yapya* (freshwater prawns), and the *paros* and *suso*, two types of mollusks.

Protected landscape

The government declared Taal Lake a national park on July 22, 1967, through Presidential Proclamation 235.

In 1996, it was declared a protected landscape under the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems Act.

Three lake-wide institutions authorized by different laws share the governance of the lake. These are the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) under the protected areas law, the Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Board under the Fisheries Code, and the Lakewide Development Council.

But the only entity that has undergone a management planning was the Presidential Commission on Tagaytay-Taal in 1993, which was abolished in 2000 allegedly because the PAMB had already been created.

Because of the number of management bodies exercising overlapping jurisdictions over the lake, they are unlikely to make any dent on the major issues affecting it.

The Kilusan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taal, a lake-wide organization, has also been helping to conserve the lake during the last 18 years.

FAMILY PLANNING BA? NATURAL!
Isang paraang safe, effective... at garantisado?

INQ TV
INQ TV
INQ TV

Sa INQREDIBLE PINOY Nanay na, guro pa
Making great things possible Globe

Sa BYLINE INQUIRER Omnijournalist: Ang mamamahayag ng 21st century

Sa TANONG NG BAYAN May saysay pa ba ang EDSA I?

Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Tuwing Huwebes, alas-11 ng gabi,
pagkatapos ng American Idol! Dito lang sa ABC

HOPE Globe HANDYPHONE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Did Roldan's girlfriend try to commit suicide?

From page A1

were anything but serious since Wang was already set to be discharged from the hospital anytime last night.

In an interview with reporters, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay confirmed that Wang had indeed been hospitalized. He did not say why.

"Suzette See Wang is in the hospital and I asked our lawyers to use the powers of the chief PNP to subpoena her to be present for any investigation here in Camp Crame," Aglipay said.

Sought for comment, another senior police official close to Aglipay confirmed the San Juan incident.

"Yes, it's true," he told the INQUIRER. "We have detailed security [peronnel] at the hospital to ensure her safety."

The PNP is apparently bent on keeping Wang alive to allow her to shed light on the abduction of a 3-year-old boy on Feb. 9.

Aglipay resorted to the subpoena because Wang could not be arrested without a warrant based on formal charges filed against her.

Police intelligence chief, Director Robert Delfin, had said it was Wang, close friend and former schoolmate of the boy's mother, who had "lured" Roldan into the kidnapping business. *(Story on Page A1).*

Delfin identified Wang as Roldan's girlfriend, an allegation vehemently denied yesterday by his lawyer Salvador Panelo.

"No, it's not true," Panelo told the INQUIRER. "She's just a family friend. Dennis is a very faithful husband and a loving father. His children see him as their idol."

Roldan is married to Luli Imperial, a former fashion model in the '70s and a favorite of designer Pitoy Moreno.

Panelo threatened to turn the tables on Roldan's accusers, claiming his client was merely a victim of a "frame-up" purportedly designed by his political enemies.

"It appears that his political enemies are at work here," Panelo claimed. "I believe he's consolidating his business because he's planning a political comeback in the next elections."

Focused on business

Contrary to reports, Panelo claimed that Roldan, Quezon City District III congressman from 1992 to 1995, was never addicted to gambling but was in fact "focused on his businesses."

These businesses supposedly include an 18-hectare mango farm in Zambales, a beach resort in the same province, and a restaurant in Kamias, Quezon City, which offers an off-track betting station for horse racing.

Having been "falsely" accused of kidnapping, Roldan is planning to hit the PNP with a barrage of criminal and human rights cases anytime this week, Panelo said yesterday.

The lawyer said he was now preparing to file charges of theft, illegal arrest, physical injury and grave threats against members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response team.

The PNP unit headed by Delfin arrested Roldan in his house in Filinvest II in Quezon City on Saturday.

During the raid, Panelo claimed Roldan and his wife lost a Rolex wristwatch worth around P500,000, a white gold Omega valued at P300,000, and an expensive bracelet.

Delfin has denied the allegation, maintaining that Roldan's camp was merely trying to discredit his men.

Suzette pal of kidnapped boy's mom since nursery

From page A1

fixture business.

But Suzette's access to the finances of the family business had been cut off long before she and her alleged boyfriend, former Rep. Dennis Roldan, figured in the kidnapping case, said Ang-See, quoting a friend of Suzette's family.

"She was relieved of all past duties in the company, because apparently, all the financial resources were not being [recorded] in a strict manner," Ang-See told reporters.

How close is Suzette to the mother?

Birthday gifts

She and the boy's mother exchanged gifts during Christmas. She would send gifts during the boy's birthday, Yu said.

When the mother changed her phone number in December last year, Suzette was among the very few who immediately knew the new number, according to the father.

They are not, however, business associates, he said.

Midnight call

The father disclosed that three days before his son was snatched from his *yaya* in Pasig City, Suzette called his wife around midnight—something he found unusual.

"(She) invited her to go down to a restaurant nearby," Yu said.

His wife declined the offer because it was already late.

The two women last met two months ago when they went to a restaurant in Libis, Quezon City. Both women had brought their children to the restaurant.

The father said as far as he knew his wife and Suzette never had a falling out.

Rolex watch

Wang called the child's family on Sunday, hours after the boy was rescued, to ask why her name was being dragged into the case, the victim's father said.

"Is there a problem?" Yu quoted Suzette as saying.

Suzette's tone was not angry, according to Me-Ann Dy, president of the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Order, a group formed by former kidnap victims.

"She was ... not angry, but (her tone) was questioning," Dy said. "Apparently, she told (the mother) she and Dennis (Roldan) had been separated for a month or a month-and-a-half and she has nothing to do with it (kidnapping)."

At one point during her conversation with the mother, Suzette asked why Roldan was being arrested when the police had no arrest warrant for him, Dy said.

"In that same phone call, she revealed to the mother that Dennis' Rolex (watch) was missing," Dy said.

The question, according to Dy, is how Suzette came to know all these.

Traumatized

Yu said his son had been traumatized by the abduction. "When he sees people he cries, and the way he cries is not the like the way he used to," he said.

"(Now) he tries to keep his voice down when he cries," he said.

Apparently, his abductors had cowed the boy into sobbing silently.

The child has also been sleeping in a fetal position—a clear sign of trauma.

Ang-See said when she was introduced to the boy, he cringed in fear in a corner of the family home.

"A child psychiatrist told me that because of his age, he does not know that he has been saved. Every day, we have to let him know that he has been saved," Ang-See said.

Scarred for life

Ang-See said she feared that the boy might be "scarred for the rest of his life."

When he watches TV, he would at times point to his abductors. "He'll tell us, 'that's Tito Jimmy, that's Daddy Carlo, that's Mommy Vicky,'" the father said.

Safety outside country

At one time, when Dennis Roldan and the other members of the alleged kidnapping group were presented at a press conference, the boy sought her mom's comfort.

"He got really afraid," the father said. "What I can't say is that when my son sees these people in TV, he gets afraid," he said.

The father said he was planning to bring his family abroad where they would be safer.

"We do have plans to get out of the country, but when the case is filed, I assure you we would be here," he said.

Asked if he and his wife would testify against Roldan and the others accused, the father said yes.

Gov't: MNLF must disarm first before dev't projects

From page A1

tonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said about 7,500 MNLF fighters had been retrained and integrated into the military and police forces after the rebel group ended its decades-old rebellion in 1996.

But a big number of MNLF fighters and commanders have refused to turn in their firearms, according to Ermita. He did not say how many firearms were still being held by the MNLF.

Aid in pipeline

As a result, millions of dollars in foreign development aid pledged by countries belonging to the Organization of the Islamic Conference are held up in the pipeline because the MNLF had reneged on its commitment to disarm, according to Ermita.

A faction loyal to jailed MNLF founder and former ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari mounted a two-week rebellion in Jolo early this month that left at least 30 soldiers and scores of rebels dead. Abu Sayyaf bandits also took part in the clashes that displaced 30,000 people.

"Their firearms are supposed to be turned in in exchange for development," Ermita, the adviser of the government panel that negotiated the 1996 peace agreement, told reporters.

"They are very impatient that the development projects that are to be placed in their communities are not yet there but they do not want to turn over their firearms," he added.

1st phase implemented

Ermita said the first phase of the peace agreement involving the military aspect had been implemented.

"I would say that we have implemented between 70 and 80 percent of the second phase, which is rehabilitation and development," he said, citing foreign aid that Manila had channeled to the ARMM after 1996.

Ermita said that the rest of the development projects had not yet been carried out owing to the lack of government funds.

But he added that "not only the Islamic community, but the world community, the World Bank, Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia and others have set aside funds for the economic development of Mindanao, if only the MNLF would surrender their firearms in exchange for development."

No ceasefire yet

Ermita also said the government was studying calls for a cessation of hostilities between the military and the MNLF faction identified with Misuari, who is currently detained at a police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on rebellion charges.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and a bloc of Muslim lawmakers have endorsed calls by Muslim and business leaders for a stop to the fighting in Sulu.

Ermita said Malacañang was awaiting a recommendation from Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. on when a ceasefire could be called.

In a talk with reporters, however, Cruz said the military was expected to accomplish its mission in Sulu "in a few more days." He did not mention any plan to implement a ceasefire.

In Camp Aguinaldo, the Armed Forces information chief also said the military was not inclined to halt hostilities now after gaining ground against the MNLF rebels and Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"We want to continue the operations against them, the enemy is getting weaker. (But) we are soldiers, any orders that will be given by higher ups, we will follow," Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said in a press conference.

More clashes

In Zamboanga City, the Southern Command chief reported clashes between Army soldiers and Abu Sayyaf bandits in Patikul, Sulu, at 9:15 a.m. yesterday. No figures of casualties were given.

The clash came a few days after Abu Sayyaf gunmen ambushed and killed three soldiers, also in Patikul.

Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said yesterday's clash was triggered by a military clearing operation in the Karawan complex, site of the more than 10 days of intense fighting.

As of press time yesterday, soldiers were still firing howitzers against the suspected position of bandits. "We ensure that we hit the right targets," Braganza said.

Nur's assurance

In a separate press conference, De Venecia said that Misuari had assured him that the ongoing conflict in Sulu would not spread to the Mindanao mainland and that he would welcome all forms of peace initiatives in the province.

De Venecia said Misuari's assurance was contained in a letter the MNLF founder had sent through the House special committee on peace, reconciliation and national unity chaired by Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo. Another letter was handed over by Misuari's wife, Tarhata, to MNLF commanders in Mindanao.

"Our first task is to prevent the spread to mainland Mindanao and I have the written assurance of Nur Misuari that this will be the case. I think we are moving forward," De Venecia said.

Ermita earlier accused Misuari of ordering the attack through his cell phone from his detention quarters at Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna. But Misuari denied Ermita's accusation in a special committee hearing chaired by Ocampo on Tuesday held in Fort Sto. Domingo.

Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, director of the Special Action Force in charge of guarding Misuari, also said it would be difficult for Misuari to talk with MNLF commanders through his cell phone without the knowledge of the six SAF operatives guarding the jailed rebel leader.

"We always ensure that we have an operative with him every time he uses his phone. Even during his private conversations (with whoever he is talking to)," Franco told the INQUIRER.

Reacting to Misuari's denials before the House committee hearing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said he didn't expect the jailed Moro leader to admit his participation in the attacks.

Muslim lawmakers earlier said the fighting was precipitated by the massacre of a family by Army soldiers. The military has denied the charge.

Peace initiative

In his press conference, De Venecia announced a House of Representatives' peace initiative to give priority to the construction of 2,000 housing units in Sulu to entice MNLF fighters to agree to a ceasefire.

He said the Sulu housing project would construct 100,000 housing units nationwide as agreed upon with Vice President Noli de Castro, who is also the housing secretary.

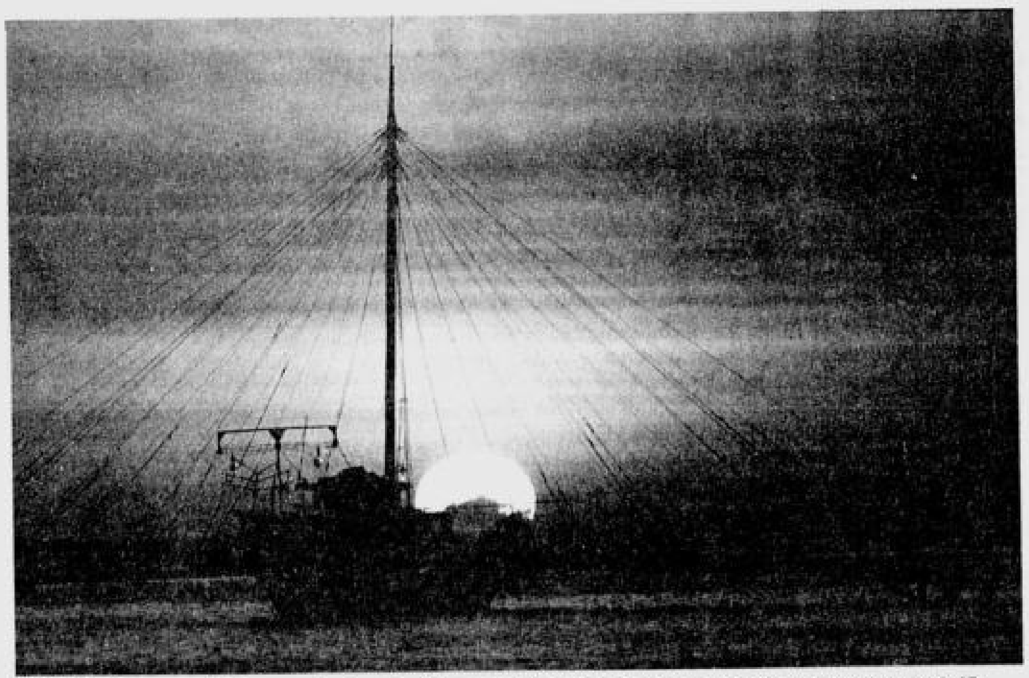
At least 82 congressmen have agreed to give part of their graft-ridden pork barrel allocations to finance the housing program.

De Venecia said he had mobilized Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, the former MNLF commander in Basilan, and Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong to help in the House's peace initiative in Sulu.

Major breakthrough

De Venecia pointed out that since the signing of the 1996 peace agreement, only 264 houses had been built to benefit Muslims.

"So these 2,000 houses to be built in Sulu will represent a major breakthrough. I discussed this with President Macapagal-Arroyo who has given her full support to the program in Sulu and in as many of the congressional districts," De Venecia said. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Alcuin Papa and Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia Balana in Manila*



FISHING boat sets off from a private wharf at sunset from Zamboanga. Fisheries output grew by 9.45 percent last year as agriculture and fisheries remain the country's main source of livelihood. REUTERS

Gov't eyes Saudi exile for Misuari

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EXILE in Saudi Arabia is one of the options being considered for jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari but Malacañang has yet to decide on it, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said yesterday.

Gonzales was commenting on Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon's statement that ranking government officials had offered exile to Misuari. Macarambon first made the remark on Tuesday at a press briefing held after a hearing conducted by the House special committee on peace, reconciliation and national unity at Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna, where Misuari is detained on rebellion charges.

"There is no policy decision on that. That option is just one of the scenarios being discussed, but there is no decision [as yet]," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

He said "many people" were "studying the issue." But he denied that his office was among them, or that he was one of the officials who broached the idea to Misuari.

Gonzales and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. visited the ex-chair of the Moro National Liberation Front in his detention cell shortly before the May 2004 presidential election. But Gonzales could not recall whether the exile proposal was brought up during that visit.

Big headache

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, chair of the House special committee, said exile was offered to Misuari "long before" the outbreak of fresh fighting between government troops and a group of MNLF rebels early this month.

"The offer was made by unidentified administration officials to get Nur out of government hands because his continued detention is a big headache for the government," Ocampo said.

Macarambon said yesterday that there were "overtures" for Misuari to go on exile, and that the latter had neither rejected nor accepted the offer.

"The offer was made by government officials, and one of them, according to Misuari, was Speaker De Venecia," Macarambon said.

Noel Albano, De Venecia's spokesperson and House deputy secretary general, declined to comment, saying: "Ceasefire is our most immediate option."

In the same boat

Asked if he would recommend exile for Misuari, Gonzales said: "I cannot comment at this point. In the first place, we do not know if Saudi [Arabia] will accept him."

Besides, Misuari is in the same boat as detained President Joseph Estrada, whose fate is in the hands of the courts, Gonzales said, adding:

"[Any action on Misuari] will be based on what the courts will do. If he will be given bail, for instance, what will he do while he is on bail?"

But Gonzales said he was not rejecting the idea of exile for the former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It will depend on the situation in Sulu," Gonzales said. "Once that is resolved, we will see what the situation of the MNLF is, and what the role of Misuari is. Then we will make a recommendation."

But in Macarambon's opinion, "if exile would mean lessening tensions in Mindanao, it would be all right. It would be better for Misuari to go on exile."

Gonzales said he did not know if President Macapagal-Arroyo would be receptive to the idea of sending Misuari away.

Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, conveyed a definite position on the matter: "[Misuari] would have to undergo the [court] process here first." *With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe Jr.
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EZ2
14 21

SUERTRES
3 8 9

FOUR DIGIT
0 2 8 7
(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
5 11 16 22 36 42
₱12,705,867.30

SWEEPSTAKES
2 1 9 0 0 5 P
₱100,000.00

Police stop jeep-load of bomb components

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AUTHORITIES intercepted in Las Piñas on Tuesday night a large cache of explosives, which police feared could have fallen into the hands of unlawful elements.

Southern Police District Chief Wilfredo Garcia said the jeep-load of explosives belonging to Nitro Asia Company Inc. only had one police escort.

"Given the present situation, these explosives could fall into the wrong hands," Garcia said.

Found in the jeep were 2,000 kilos of ammonium nitrate, 100 sticks of dynamite, 20,000 blasting caps, thousands of feet of detonating cord and safety fuse.

According to Garcia, thousands of bombs could be made out of the materials.

He said the jeep-load of explosives came from Bataan and was on its way to Catanduanes when it was stopped by patrolling lawmen along Naga Road.

The jeep driver and the police escort were detained pending verification of the documents they presented to the police.

Garcia said they would release the jeep and its contents upon presentation and verification of the necessary documents.

'Queen,' 2 cop-aides fall

By Leila B. Salaverria

A WOMAN tagged by authorities as "queen" of illegal recruiters was arrested on Tuesday with two policemen and a former National Bureau of Investigation agent who acted as her security escorts.

Suspect Rosemarie Liwanag was given the label because she had allegedly defrauded 6,000 prospective overseas workers of some P1 billion, according to officials of the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (Pairtf).

The number of known victims is expected to rise with the news of Liwanag's arrest, said Pairtf deputy chief Sr. Supt. Cresencio Cabasal.

Cabasal said Liwanag was arrested at about 3 p.m. on Tuesday after a brief chase along Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City.

The official added that a shootout almost occurred as Liwanag, along with her security escorts, tried to flee from arresting Pairtf officers.

However, the task force agents outnumbered the suspects, who were reportedly forced to surrender.

The Pairtf identified the security escorts as PO2 Eduardo Ancheta of the Western Police District, PO3 Roldan Maganto of the National Capital Region Police Office, and Jose Nape, erstwhile confidential agent of the NBI.

Seized from them were a handgun and two Toyota Revos with the license plates "PNP MG."

Cabasal said the Pairtf would investigate whether any other law enforcement official was working with Liwanag. So far, they learned that one of her vans was owned by a certain "Capt. Macalindong."

Investigation revealed that Liwanag allegedly duped most of her victims through her recruitment agency Guidance Corporation in Makati City.

Cabasal said her agency had a license from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, but she had no job orders and was allegedly unable to send a single worker abroad. She had been operating her agency for about five years.

According to Cabasal, Liwanag sweet talked clients who came from all over the country into handing over about P100,000 each for placement and other fees.

A daughter's painful quest may have answered prayer

By Ross Harper-Alonso
Contributor

A BOUQUET of flowers offered by friends of Nita Robles-Llora for her mother, Maria Robles. At left: Nita at 13 with mother Maria in happier times. MARIA SULEIMAN

THERE is pain in Ramon Llora's eyes when he talks about his mother, Encarnacion "Nita" Robles-Llora, and the unanswered questions he still anguishes over, six decades after the end of World War II.

Nita and her mother Maria Robles, a beautiful Spanish mestiza born in La Castellana, Negros Occidental, lived on Mabini Street, Ermita, after Nita's stepfather, Champoro Tejada, left the family.

Maria later worked at a casino on Romero Salas Street ran by a Mr. Del Rosario and Carl Hess, a German national. The gambling establishment was first set up at the Dakota Apartments on Dakota Street, but had to be moved frequently to avoid the prying eyes of the Japanese.

On Feb. 2, 1945 at approximately 3 p.m., Japanese soldiers raided the gambling club and took everyone away for questioning, including Maria, a Mr. Yangco and a pregnant lady who could have been Marta Albert-Reyes. "Mr. Hess wasn't at the casino when it was raided, but he called my mom to assure her that everyone would be released in the morning," Ramon said, quoting his mother's recollection of the incident when she was just 13 years old.

"Japanese soldiers later picked up Mr. Hess, and he was never heard of again," Ramon continued. "The next day, only my grandmother's bicycle and hat were recovered from the casino."

Despite extensive searches, Maria was never found. No one at the University of Sto. Tomas, Fort Santiago, La Salle or other camps holding prisoners of war of the Japanese could provide any kind of information about her.

Within days, Nita was left virtually an orphan. Her only relative, Nena Robles, a cousin, was unable to help her.

Maria's best friend, Rem Martinez, and her parents later raised Nita like their own. Rem and Nita treated each other like sisters, and were rarely apart. "Tita Rem was the maternal grandmother we didn't have," recalled Ramon. "After her husband, Pepe Cabarrus passed away, Tita Rem lived with mom and my Dad, Manuel, until she joined her son in Spain two years ago."

Childhood memories

Now a widow, the 72-year-old Nita shares a lovely home with Ramon in Brisbane, Australia, where her family migrated 35 years ago with her husband and four children.

Nita admits she has led a blessed and bountiful life. But it is still not a life Nita can describe as complete. The heartbreaking memories of her childhood remain fresh in her mind.

Her lifelong search for her mother through correspondence and telephone calls, for details behind her disappearance had been filled with anxiety, dead ends and a fading glimmer of hope.

On a recent trip to Manila, Ramon and Nita tried to retrace Maria Robles' steps on that fateful day when she disappeared with the use of a Metro Manila map. But the exercise turned out to be difficult and frustrating.

"We were going around in circles since all the street names had been replaced with entirely different ones," lamented Ramon. "Mom also wrote (newspaper publisher) Max Soliven for assistance, just a shot-in-the-dark sort of thing, Mr. Soliven being a famous newspaper man with good connections. I can only guess that he didn't receive the letter because she never got a reply."

Last year, Nita came across the book "By Sword and Fire" by Alfonso Aluit about the destruction of Manila during the battle for the liberation of the city from the Japanese from February to March 1945. She recognized 90 percent of the names and places he had mentioned in the book, and had sent Mr. Aluit a letter pleading for his assistance. He, too, didn't reply for some reason.

Coincidences and closure

Nita carried the longing and loneliness of losing her mother almost her entire life, but the closure she so badly seeks might be just around the corner.

Edgar "Bubi" Krohn Jr., cofounder of The Memorare-Manila 1945 Foundation that aims to remember the victims of the battle for Manila could be the key. Recounting an experience to friends recently, Krohn said he heard a commotion on that fateful day (Feb. 2, 1945) from the upper floor of the Elena Apartments on Romero Salas Street, where he lived with his family when he was 16. From his hiding place, he said he saw Japanese soldiers setting up road blocks in the streets.

"That was an extremely terror-filled period for us," Krohn recalled. "The Japanese were on a rampage and no one dared to venture out of their homes. I saw Japanese soldiers push and shove groups of people out of the casino into waiting trucks. It was a horrible scene that remains vivid in my mind."

A few days later, he heard that everyone arrested at the casino were taken to the Japanese headquarters on Cortevidarte, and most probably killed since family members never saw any of them again.

Krohn could have been one of the last people to see Maria Robles alive. His memory of that day is the only eyewitness account there is that could make a connection between her disappearance and, probably, her death. Her remains may have been among the other unidentified bodies found at Cortabidarte, allegedly including the bodies of three British gentlemen belonging to the Executive Committee of Internees in Sto. Tomas recovered after liberation forces took control of Manila.

Today, the property where the dreaded Japanese Headquarters on Cortabidarte once stood is occupied by a fenced empty lot and a huge gasoline station on the corner of Quirino Avenue and Mabini Street.

Sadly, only a few remember the old street name, and we may never know what exactly happened in this part of Manila 60 years ago.

But Nita Robles-Llora finds comfort in the thought that she is getting closer to the truth.

With the help of members of The Memorare-Manila 1945 Foundation, information has begun to trickle in, including a story of a patient named "Maria Robles" who reportedly died while being treated in a hospital on Feb. 26, 1945.

Last week, unknowing pedestrians and motorists filed past a basket of flowers at the corner of Quirino Ave and Mabini Street placed there by the family of Nita Robles-Llora to remember those who died at Cortabidarte.

For any information, e-mail the author at rhalonso@mydestiny.net

Now it's 3 canteens in Tondo school

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR THE students' sake.

Teachers of the Lakandula High School in Tondo, Manila, have decided to open two temporary canteens inside the campus, while they have yet to take back the school canteen they had lost almost six months ago.

"Even if we only earn a little, this is just so the students would have a place where they could eat," said Ruth Alonsagay, head teacher of Lakandula's Home Economics (HE) department.

On Tuesday, the HE department opened two temporary canteens on campus, after the school administration shut down the school's disputed canteen run by private concessionaire Michelle Pineda until recently.

The Department of Education ordered Pineda to stop operating the canteen since its privatization reportedly violated DepEd regulations.

Pineda is contesting the DepEd order.

However, claiming that the students needed a place where they could eat, the teachers decided to establish their own canteens.

"We had to cater to the students. It would be dangerous for them leave the campus," said Alonsagay.

Teachers turned rooms in the school's Production Center and three rooms of the HE department at Lakandula's Building 3 into small mess halls to accommodate its almost 5,000 students. The canteens serve snacks and meals.

No one to blame but Tarongoy

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE KIDNAPPERS of Roberto Theodore Tarongoy, a Filipino accountant abducted in Iraq, are demanding a $20 million ransom for his release, according to a diplomatic source. The kidnappers said they would execute Tarongoy if their demand was not met.

After many weeks of captivity, there's only one reason Tarongoy is still alive (his kidnappers showed his recent video as "proof of life"). And that is that the Philippine government gave in to the demand of the abductors of Angelito de la Cruz to withdraw its humanitarian contingent in Iraq.

The withdrawal of the Philippine contingent had become an irritant in US-Philippine relations.

The government should never give in to the demand of Tarongoy's kidnappers. Why should it, since Tarongoy only has himself to blame for his fate. Filipino workers had been warned not to accept job offers in Iraq after the De la Cruz abduction.

If the government cannot come to the aid of its hapless citizens, then it should force the Saudi Arabian Trading and Construction Co. Ltd., Tarongoy's employer, to pay his ransom. Tarongoy entered Baghdad via Amman, Jordan. The Davaoeño was recruited through its agent in Manila, JS Contractor Inc., with offices at 423 Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila.

Another agency to be blamed for Tarongoy's hiring in war-torn Iraq is People's General Insurance Corp. It reportedly insured Tarongoy for P2 million for any untoward incident that could take place while he was in Iraq.

But the bigger blame should be placed on JS Contractor Inc. It sent Tarongoy to Iraq despite the ban on the deployment of workers to that country.

* * *

While his critics are throwing bricks at acting Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales, the person suffering collateral damage is Teresita Jamolo, 24, a first year law student at the University of Iloilo.

Jamolo, according to Gonzales' critics, was reportedly impregnated by the justice secretary when he was still a congressman (Iloilo).

The accusation against Gonzales' supposed illicit affair surfaced at the confirmation hearings in the Commission on Appointments (CA). Jamolo has denied the accusation against Gonzales. And even if it's true, so what?

Now, point out to me any male member of the CA—and for that matter of Congress—who claims to be morally upright and I'll tell you he's a liar!

Why don't these righteous persons just follow Jesus Christ's admonition: He who is innocent should cast the first stone.

* * *

It would have been another story if Jamolo herself complained before the CA about her supposed affair with the justice secretary.

If Jamolo, for example, said that after getting her pregnant, Gonzales had abandoned her and their child, then Gonzales' appointment should not be confirmed.

Even if the reported liaison between Jamolo and Gonzales were true, who is to blame since it's a relationship between two consenting adults?

INQBOX

Question of the Week

Do you think the proposed national I.D. system will be useful in the fight against terrorism?

Win this *Inquirer mug

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! :)*

Key in: **inquirer box name/age/city/message.**
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

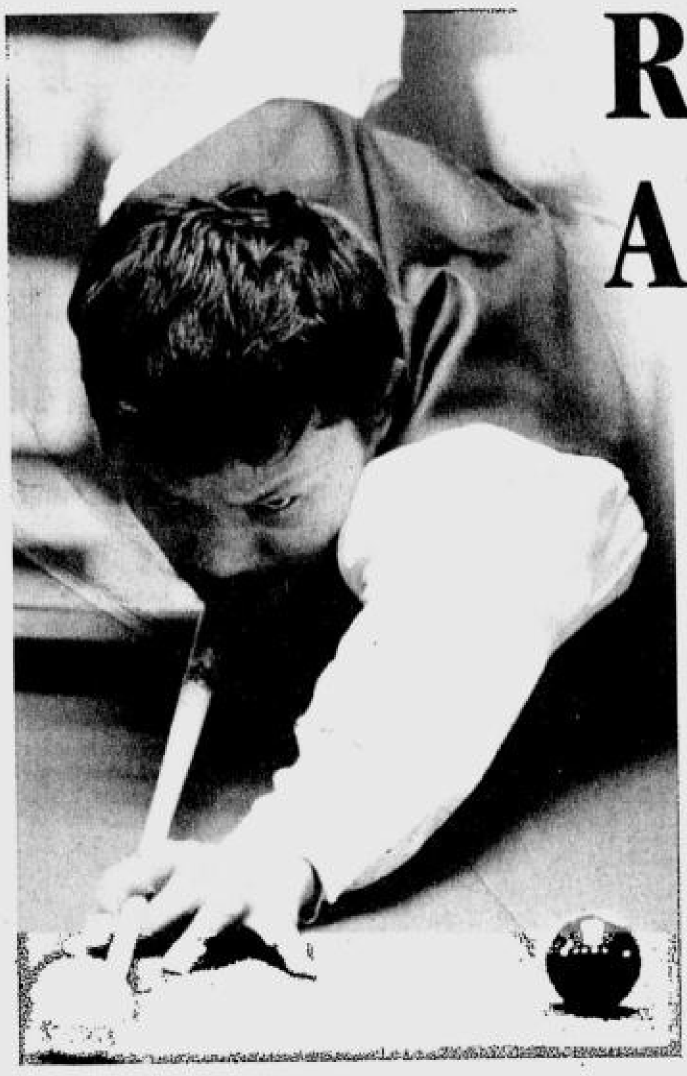
SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Duke vs Georgia Tech; 8 a.m. (r-midnight); Purdue vs Indiana; 10 a.m.; Kansas vs Oklahoma; 2 p.m. (r); Texas vs Texas Tech; 4 p.m. (r); ESPN - The race for March Madness heats up as the conference wars near their conclusion.

NBA - Pacers vs Heat; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports; Celtics vs Lakers; 12 noon (r); Sports Plus - Indiana faces Miami in the east while Boston renews its rivalry with LA.

Reyes, 'Jeff Bata' keep All-Filipino bids afloat



BATA: I needed to win.

By Marlon Bernardino, *contributor*

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Jeffrey de Luna, pool magicians belonging to different eras, began their march out of the loser's bracket with victories over separate foes yesterday in the Hope All-Filipino Billiards Open at the AMF Puyat Billiards Hall in Ever Gotesco-Commonwealth.

Reyes, the legendary trickster known worldwide as the Magician, pummeled an overmatched Edgar Acaba, 9-2, to bounce back from a stunning defeat to Antonio Gabica the other night.

"I needed to win because I was coming off a loss," said the soft-spoken Reyes.

The 20-year-old De Luna, the youngest qualifier in the P1-million event, plastered the 50-year-old Roberto Dy, 9-5.

Reyes was scheduled to play Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, a 9-3 winner over Warren Kiamco also yesterday, at presstime. De Luna was also set to face Gandy Valle, who nipped Joven Alba, 9-8.

Late Tuesday, Alex Pagulayan, the reigning world pool champ, beat Valle, 9-6, to set a mouth-watering duel against Django Bustamante today.

De Luna, known in the moniker-crazy billiards circuit as "Jeff Bata" because of his penchant for magical shots made famous by Reyes, trailed Dy, 3-5, after eight games. But a crucial 3-ball miss in the 10th frame sealed Dy's doom.

Reyes lost the lag and the first frame but racked up seven straight wins on the way to victory in the event backed by Hope, Talk 'N Text, More, Mark and Champion and held under the aegis of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines under its president, Ernie Fajardo, in partnership with billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Jemah's Mark Roces.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- PSC names Velasco, Jalnaiz consultants /A23

- Tamaraws test Lancers in C-League semifinals /A24

- Raptors make Carter look bad /A25

Lawyer
55 years old
Policeman
46 years old
Fireman
40 years old
Businessman
33 years old
Sales Executive
29 years old
Security Guard
25 years old
KAYO?
Production Operator
38 years old
Insurance Broker
55 years old
Machine Operator
44 years old

NAKAKAULIT NA KAMI!

Uulit ka pa!
再來一杯！

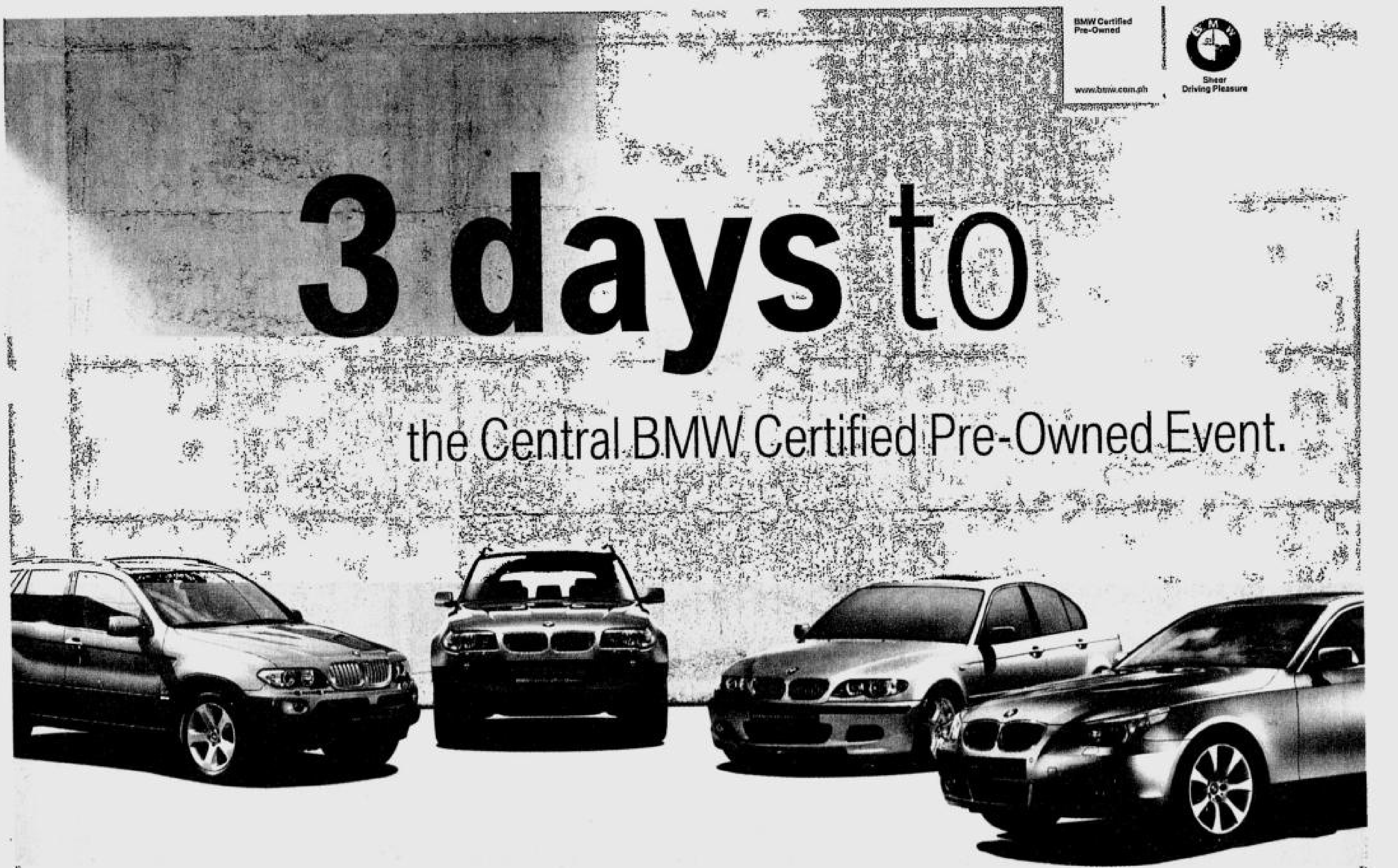
Exclusively Distributed by:
DERICH DIAMOND
(632) 951-6901, (632) 932-7555 local 114
diamond@i-manila.com.ph

Available at mercury drug and other supermarkets and drugstores

BFAD FR-36127

Revitalize your sex life.
RHINO Herbal Tea For men

LEE MF-Rhino Brand



3 days to the Central BMW Certified Pre-Owned Event.

Visit the BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, February 27, 2005.

- The largest selection of BMW Certified Pre-Owned cars ever gathered at one place.
- Special event prices on BMW Certified Pre-Owned cars.
- BMW ownership at an easy 1/3 down payment, 1/3 on the 12th month, and 1/3 on the 24th month, at 0% interest on selected BMW Certified Pre-Owned cars.
- Trade in any brand for car for a BMW Certified Pre-Owned.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0921 Series of 2005

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 638 0734 • Fax (02) 438 0419 • **Prestige Cars BMW** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 816 7325 • **Autozentrum BMW** Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 772 6021 to 24 • Fax (02) 772 6025 • **Premier Cars BMW** CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 963 7777 • Fax (045) 963 3355 • **Performance Auto BMW** Mugallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492

Morales uses herbs, acupuncture to get ready for Pacquiao

Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

WHILE Manny Pacquiao is using Thai sticks in his training, former three-division world champion Erik Morales has resorted to alternative medicine in his bid to attain the best shape possible for the March 19 showdown against the Filipino lefty at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Morales and his team, based at the high-altitude Otomi Mountains in Mexico, underwent an alternative medicine session yesterday under Korean doctor Jon Min Ki, who is an expert in acupuncture, chiropraction, aromatherapy and masotherapy.

"There is no better medicine than the one produced by the human body," explained Dr. Ki to BoxLatino. Ki was accompanied to Morales' lairs by Erik's uncle Guillermo Morales and Nicolas Bravo.

"The purpose is to avoid diseases and resist annoyances caused by fatigue, product of the physical wearing down to which Morales is exposed in his daily training," Ki added.

The Korean doctor applied on Morales a treatment derived from Mogxa, a plant which originates in South Korea and serves to eliminate organic toxins.

Dr. Ki placed a pair of Mogxa-containing equipment that looked like a lighter around Morales' knees which lets off therapeutic aroma when lighted. The Korean doctor also did acupuncture on Morales.

Pacquiao, for his part, has been photographed using Thai sticks—which resemble the pool sticks being used by the Filipino icon in his spare time—to further strengthen his abdominal and upper body muscles.

BOXLATINO

MORALES (left) undergoes acupuncture session with Doctor Ki.

Retanal tops chess elims

WILLIAM Retanal stunned top seed Michael Teves in the eighth and final round Sunday night to rule the Region I elimination of the 2005 National Standard Chess Championship at the Laoag City Hall basketball court.

The No. 6 seed Retanal, pride of Mandaue City, finished with 7.0 points to take the title plus the top purse of P7,000 in the qualification tournament which lured 95 participants.

Retanal, elder brother of former Philippine junior champion and National Master Elwin Retanal, will advance to the semifinal round of the National Standard Chess Championship in Manila this May to select the members of the country's team to the 2005 Southeast Asian Games the Philippines is hosting from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Second seed Edmundo Gatus of Manila took the scalp of John-John Mendoza of Benguet to score 6.5 points, the same output of third seed Belsar Valencia of San Fernando City, La Union and 11th seed Ronald Adaya of Baguio City. They received P3,333 each.

Rounding up the top 10 finishers and also making it to the semifinal round are Teves (6.0), Julio Busaing of Baguio City (6.0), Noel Pinic of Benguet (6.0), Bernard Velasco of Laoag City (6.0), Kenn Camacho of Caba, La Union (6.0) and Mangatarem, Pangasinan, whiz kid Hamdas Pascua (6.0). *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Bauya vs Salim March 26

PHILIPPINE bantamweight champion Joel Bauya goes into enemy territory when he defends his RP crown for the second time against mandatory challenger Reman Salim on March 26 at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

The 29-year-old southpaw Bauya of the Romano Stable is raring to get back into the local ring after three unsuccessful international outings capped by a six-round loss at the hands of World Boxing Organization bantam champ Ratanachai Sor Vorapin in Bangkok, Thailand, last Nov. 19.

Bauya had Vorapin down in the third round, but could not put away the Thai champ.

After winning the RP crown with a seventh-round technical knockout win over Mandaue City's Noel Sungahid on Dec. 20, 2003 in Subic, Bauya defended his title three months later against another Cebuano, Johnny Lear, with a 12-round majority draw.

A month later, Bauya traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, and lost to Vusi Malinga for the WBC International bantam crown. The Filipino went down three times in the first round and lost by technical knockout. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Laylo, Silva enter Palawan Open tilt

REIGNING National Open champion NM Darwin Laylo and Winston Silva head the roster of the 2005 Palawan Open chess championship starting Sunday at the Puerto Princesa City Gymnasium.

"This will be a good practice for my campaign in the United States this May," said Laylo, head coach of UST chess team.

The event, sponsored by the city government of Puerto Princesa through Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Vice Mayor Lucilo Bayron, in cooperation with National Chess Federation Vice President and provincial administrator lawyer Romeo Seratubias, is open to all local chess players.

For details, call Puerto Princesa City Chess Association president and tournament director NM Renato Seratubias (0921-5589516) or NCFP director Willie Abalos (0921-6219898). *NM Marlon Bernardino*

1st Tanauan Chess slated

REGISTRATION is now in full swing for the country's biggest active chess tournament ever, the 1st Tanauan Chess Open-Mayor's Cup, which will be held March 4-5 at the Speaker Jose Laurel Memorial Gymnasium (Gym 2) in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Entries are being accepted at the First Asia Institute, #2 President Laurel Highway, Tanauan City, Batangas (call [043] 778-0656 and 778-1529 local 106) or at the ACCA (ask for Susan Manalo), sixth floor PDCP Bank Centre, Leviste corner Rufino Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or call 0927-4116906 and 0918-6966581; e-mail: acca@info.com.ph.

The two-day event dangles a total prize of P200,000, with the champion receiving P100,000 plus trophy. Entry fee is P750 plus a default fee of P250.

Tagbilaran hosts Abapo-Marzan RP championship

THE PHILIPPINE junior welterweight showdown between ALA Boy Bart Abapo and Rex Marzan on March 5 will be held at the University of Bohol gymnasium in Tagbilaran City.

Marzan has an ax to grind against Abapo, who beat him by decision in 2002 and vows not to waste this chance to redeem himself.

Providing undercard support is the crowd-pleasing Cebu-based Japanese Nori Iwatani, who will tangle with the hard-hitting Richard Cabello in an 8-rounder.

Iwatani is gaining popularity in Cebu and plans to take his class act once again to Bohol after his rousing debut there late last year.

Bohol's Isidro Balabat takes on Rolando Baclayo in another eight-round encounter, while Rodel Quilaton faces Alan Dugang.

In the curtain-raiser, Bohol's Arnel Tadena goes up against Reymund Legaspi in a six-round tiff. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

TUESDAY 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM

American Idol

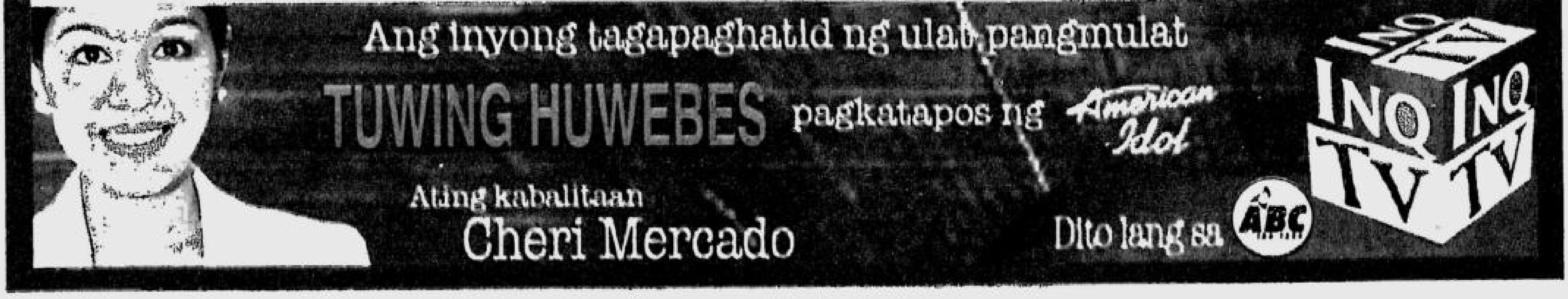
SPECIAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK!

ABC iba tayo

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Masked Rider Ryuki		Gatekeepers	TV Patrol		Spirits	Krystala	'Til Death Do Us Part	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
NBN		Taiwan/Winner TV Shopping		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Sinulog Festival					
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA			PBA		Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Inq TV	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin		Starstruck	Stairway To Heaven	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Wrestling		NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Chowtime Na!		V League				Retro TV	IBC News Tonite	OPTV	EZ Shop
Solar		WWE Smackdown				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	[illegible]	Dungeons And Dragons	Stargate SG1		Thunder Box		JAG		Holes			
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Good Morning Miami	What I Like About You	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	JKX	Ed		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Elimidate	Change of Heart
Cinema One		Metah				Drama Studio: Minsan Lang Kita Iibigin				Oras Na Para Lumaban				Rewind: Rosa Mistika				Kanang Kamay	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	UAAP				Batman Beyond	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Barkada Nights				News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Spin City
AXN		The Contender		Alias (Season III)		Maximum Exposure		Samurai X	Samurai X	Andromeda (Season III)		Enervon AXN Xtreme	Now See This (Season II)	David Blaine: Vertigo		The Glass House			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		American Idol		Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	American Idol		The Chronicle News From The Edge		Outback Jack		Friends	American Idol
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Innovation		Scientific American Frontiers		Mummy Road Shows	Tales Of The Living Dead	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Innovation		Explorations Powered By Duracell	
Solar Sports	IBF German Open [illegible] Finals				Greatest Classics				ATP Open 13 2005 Singles				NBA TV Daily	NBA Game: Miami @ Indiana					NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Lifestyle		Area		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO			Quick Change (3:40 PM)			Virtual Storm (5:10 PM)				Conspiracy Theory (6:50 PM)				Cat In The Hat			Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets		
Star Movies	Air Strike (2:40 PM)			Behind The Camera: The Authorized Story Of 3's Company			Rocky IV (5:45 PM)			Life Or Something Like It (7:15 PM)				The Pianist					Monster's Ball
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Static Shock	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename: Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang: The Superfriends	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN				Big 12 Conf.: Texas vs. Texas Tech				UEFA Champions League 2004/05				Sportscenter Taiwan	UEFA Champions League 2004/05					Goals!	Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/[illegible] Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/[illegible] Bunny	Mickey's Once Upon A Christmas			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Eloise At Christmas Time	
Cinemax	Hook (2:45 PM)					Cinema Secrets III Ep 11, From Comics To Cinema	Clockstoppers			Ghostbusters (7:15 PM)				Federal Protection			Prehysteria (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Jessica				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy		Strong Medicine		Jessica 2			Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Judging Amy (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Extreme Engineering		Ultimate Cars	Building The Ultimate	D-Day: 6.6.44		Ultimate Discovery		Power Zone	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Most Wanted		TRL		Handpicked: The Dawn	MTV Diyes		Battle of Ozzfest	One Bad Trip	Wildboyz	Cribs	MTV Fashionista	MTV Urban Beats	VH1 Video Collections	
Sports Plus	Nissan Open Day3						Nascar Daytona 500 Daytona Int'l Speedway						Nissan Open Highlights		You've Got to See This	World Golf Championships Accenture Match Day1			
EWTN	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Suffering Church	Angel Force	Children's Rosary	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	The Spirit Of Catholic Leadership	Saints: A Closer Look	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Council Of Faith	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat

TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol

Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado

Dito lang sa ABC

INQ TV

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PSC names Velasco, Jalnaiz consultants

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission got a boost once more from the country's prominent athletes.

Olympic silver medalist Onyok Velasco and former Asian Games champion Roberto Jalnaiz agreed yesterday to serve as consultants to help ensure the country's successful campaign in the Manila 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Last month, PSC officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez tapped former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado as head of the athlete's commission.

The two amateur boxing heroes vowed to do their share in helping the SEAG bets and will be working closely with De Vega-Mercado.

VELASCO: Willing to lend a hand.

Velasco bagged the silver medal in the light flyweight division during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics while Jalnaiz averted a gold shutout for the Philippines in the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing by topping the bantamweight division.

Lydia said they won't interfere in the training "but they'll be helping me check out all the athletes' preparation for the SEA Games. Then we'll discuss any problem or concern of the athletes."

Velasco and Jalnaiz said they'll be lending their support to other sports.

"We'll look at their training and visit their quarters," said the 32-year-old Velasco, who also also won a gold medal in the 1994 Asian Games in Japan.

He said he's willing to help even beyond the SEA Games. "Even up to the Olympics, we're ready to help," Velasco added.

Velasco was a two-time SEA Games gold medalist, while the 38-year-old Jalnaiz also competed in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Nangyayari ba ito sa 'yo:

☑ Nahihirapan o nangangapos ng paghinga
☑ Naninikip ang dibdib
☑ Ubo
? Kinakapos ng pang-tuition

May abot-kayang gamot sa mamahaling sakit.

RiteMED™
Right medicine, priced right.™

Ang hirap sa paghinga, paninikip ng dibdib at ubo ay sintomas ng isang taong maaaring may Asthma, isang sakit na dama hanggang bulsa.

Buti na lang, may mga gamot ang RiteMED para sa Asthma na de-kalidad, epektibo at abot-kaya. Para di ka kapusin sa ibang pangangailangan.

Kumunsulta sa inyong doktor. Itanong kung aling gamot ng RiteMED ang nararapat sa inyong karamdaman.

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE:

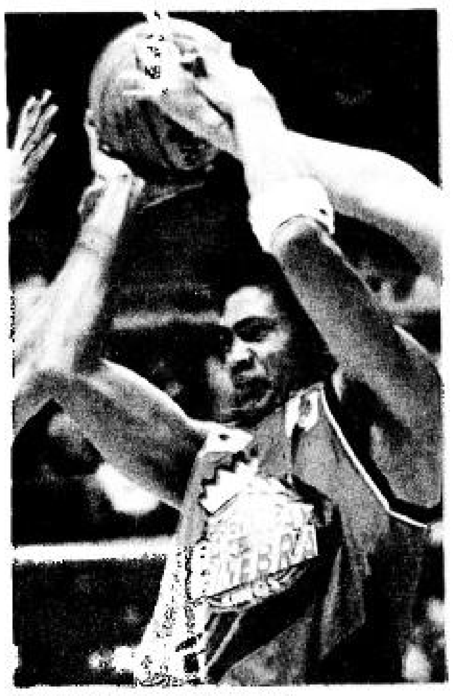
Vitamins (Vitamin C):
- RiteMED Ascorbic Acid 250mg Tablet
- RiteMED Ascorbic Acid 500mg Tablet

For Headache, Toothache, Body Pains and Dysmenorrhear
- RiteMED Mefenamic Acid 250 mg Tablet

For Fever and Flu:
- RiteMED Paracetamol 500mg Tablet
- RiteMED Paracetamol 120mg Syrup

For symptomatic relief of Diarrhea:
- RiteMED Loperamide 2mg Capsule

For symptomatic relief of Cough:
- RiteMED Bromhexine 4mg/5mL Syrup 60mL
- RiteMED Guaifenesin 100mg Tablet
- RiteMED Ambroxol 15mg Syrup 60 & 120ml
- RiteMED Ambroxol 30mg Syrup 60 & 120ml
- RiteMED Ambroxol 30mg Tablet



ADDUCUL craves for awards.

Adducul wants to move out of Menk's shadow

By June Navarro

ROMEL Adducul has two titles under his belt in as many years with Barangay Ginebra, but he continues to crave for an individual award in the Philippine Basketball Association.

But with Eric Menk the center of attraction on the Kings' roster, Adducul is beginning to doubt his chances of winning an individual accolade, something the 6-foot-6 power forward had earned several times in the past since his collegiate days.

Thus, the former three-time NCAA MVP out of San Sebastian College has started to shop around for a team willing to make him one of its main pillars, a reliable source told the Inquirer yesterday..

"He (Adducul) wants to win an individual award before he retires," said the source who requested anonymity. "Unfortunately, Rommel's chances of earning an award are slim with Menk most likely to overshadow him at Ginebra."

Menk won the player of the conference award and the Finals MVP after leading the Kings to their first back-to-back crown in the PBA Philippine Cup recently. The 6-foot-7 Menk also became Finals MVP during the Fiesta Cup won by the Gin Kings.

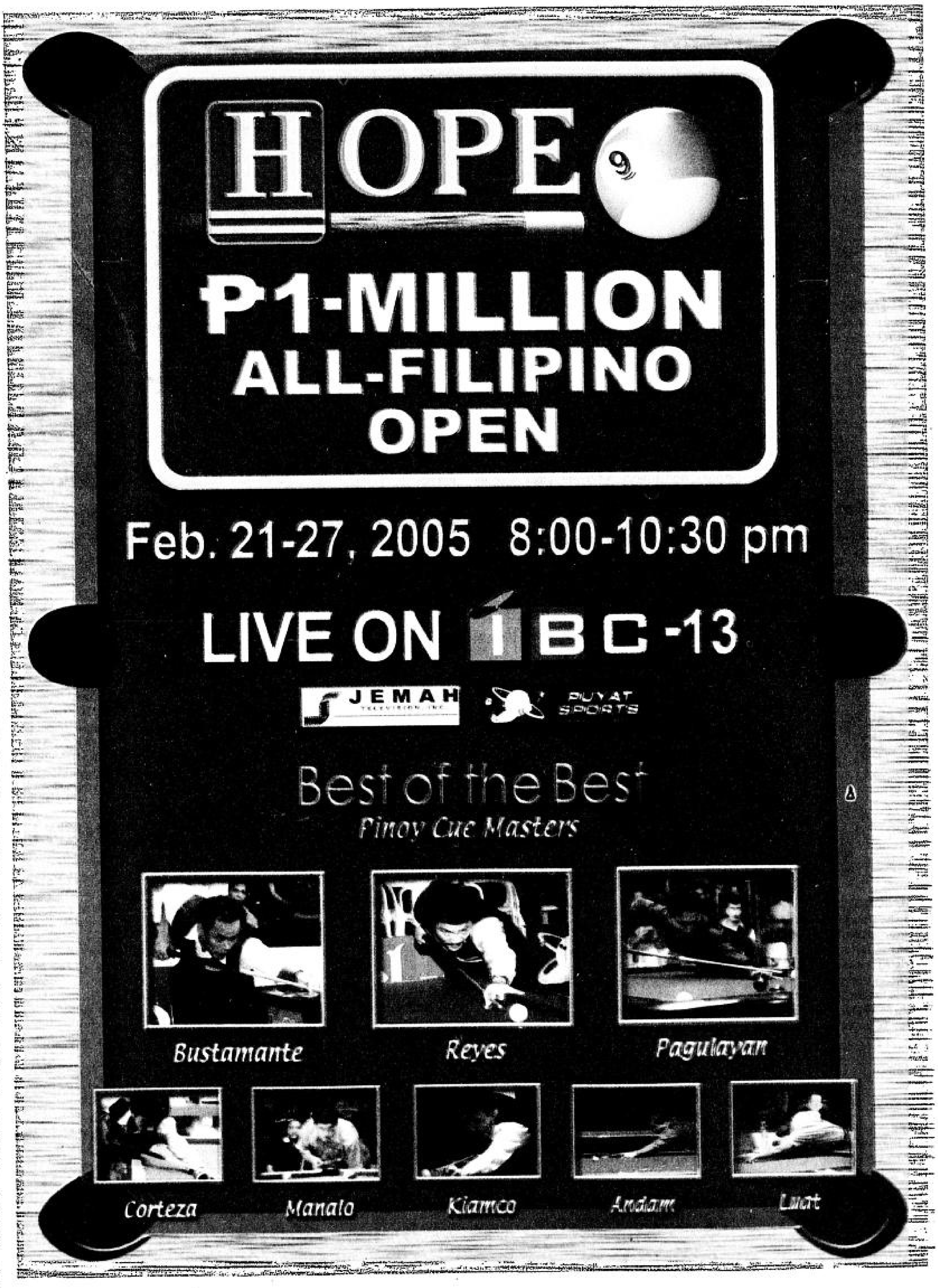
Sources said the Shell Turbochargers have renewed their efforts to secure Adducul, the pride of Tuguegarao City, in exchange for Billy Mamaril and Chris Calaguio.

The same source added that the FedEx Express have also been sending feelers, opening their trade lines with the Kings to acquire the former Metropolitan Basketball Association and Philippine Basketball League MVP.

Adducul, whose contract with the Kings will expire next year, will be a main cog in Ginebra's grand slam drive in the import-spiced conference next month despite his atrocious free-throw shooting.

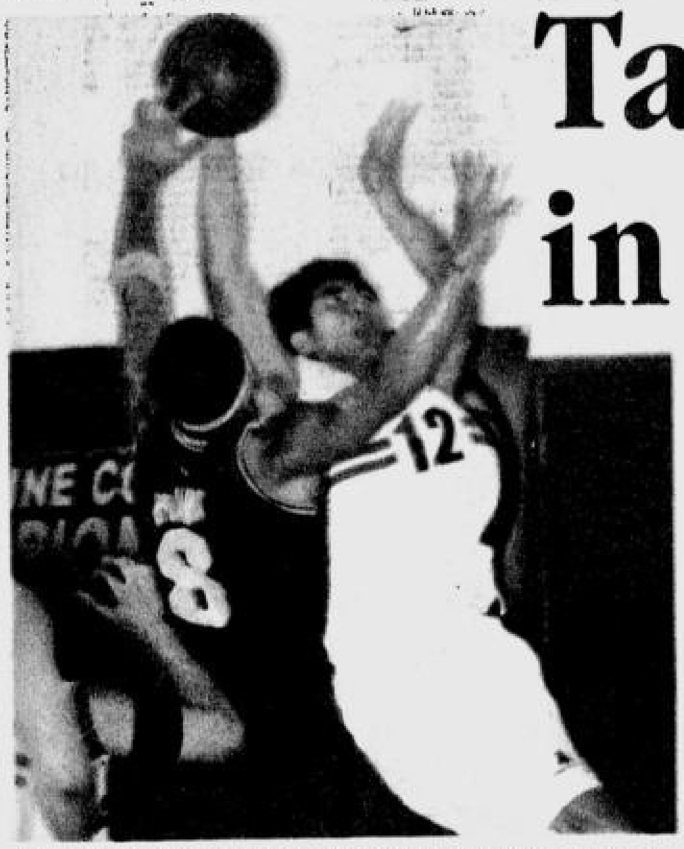
Meanwhile, Red Bull signed up PBL veteran playmaker Warren Ybanez to a two-year contract as replacement for Denver Lopez, whom the Barako shipped to San Miguel Beer in exchange for Bryan Gahol.

Coca-Cola also hopes to strengthen its backcourt by signing up free-agent Eugene Tan to à one-year contract before the start of the reinforced conference slated March 4.



NBA EVERYWHERE!
NBA RADIO
NBA TV SOLAR SPORTS
NBA RPN
MIAMI HEAT
VS
INDIANA PACERS
NBA TV on SOLAR SPORTS 8:00 am replay 9 pm
NBA on RPN
HOUSTON ROCKETS @ SAN ANTONIO SPURS
7:30 pm
NBA RADIO
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES @ WASHINGTON WIZARDS
8:00 am

Tamaraws test Lancers in C-League semifinals



FEU's Denok Miranda (8) fouls UP's Abby Santos during a rebound battle in their game won by the Tamaraws Tuesday. RYAN LIM

GAMES TODAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—PCU vs UE
4 p.m.—FEU vs UV

THE CURRENT Collegiate Champions League is becoming a lot like a reunion for the Purefoods Hotdogs of the early 90s.

Three of the four coaches now in the semifinals come from that batch and played alongside retired legend Alvin Patrimonio—Elmer Cabahug of University of Visayas, Dindo Pumaren of the University of the East and Glenn Capacio of Far Eastern University.

However, there won't be an exchange of pleasantries when the former Hotdogs cross paths again today.

"It's a good feeling seeing my fellow Purefoods players, unfortunately it's all business for us now in the semifinals," said Cabahug, who played for the Hotdogs from 1991 to 1993 before transferring to Pepsi and Sta. Lucia in 1998.

Known for his sharpness from the outside, Cabahug said his UV Lancers will have their hands full against the FEU Tamaraws in their 4 p.m. match today at the Makati Coliseum.

"They (FEU Tamaraws) play neat defense and could adjust to any situation," said Cabahug of FEU, which stopped University of the Philippines' three-game winning streak here with a 58-56 win last Tuesday.

The defending champion Tamaraws are now under head coach Bert Flores and Capacio in this tournament sponsored by Petron, Smart Addict, PCSO, Air21, adidas, Glaxo SKF, Wilson and Pascual Laboratories.

"I'm aware of their style of play in Cebu," said Flores, who also played for Jazz Cola in the Cebu Basketball League. "It's going to be an exciting game."

If the second game is all about defense, the first semifinal match at 2 p.m. between UE and seeded semifinalist, NCAA champion Philippine Christian University, will be focused on speed.

"We are struggling in our rebounds so we have to make up for it in fastbreaks," said Pumaren. "But if we want to win, we have to do something in the shaded lane."

The Dolphins are known for their big men who also happen to move fast—Gabby Espinas, Ian Vincent Garrido and Robert Sanz, who all stand 6-foot-4 and above.

But PCU is sure to miss coach Ato Tolentino, who transformed them from NCAA doormats to champions last year. Tolentino reportedly refused to renew his contract with PCU and was replaced by Bong Sales.

FEU also lost coach Koy Banal, who left after the last UAAP season. Still, the Tamaraws packed enough power to down the Maroons.

Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH

Freedom Cup tomorrow at SLLP

IN A FITTING tribute to the 19th anniversary of the Edsa "People Power Revolution," the Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Manila Jockey Club Inc. have joined forces in staging the Freedom Cup Race tomorrow at the San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) in Carmona, Cavite. Bannered by the country's top gallopers, the event carries a total prize pot of P750,000 and is set to be disputed over a distance of 1,750 meters. PCSO Chair Sergio O. Valencia will be the guest of honor. "This is a good jumpstart to the year's lineup of top caliber stakes races at the SLLP," said MJCI chair and chief executive Alfonso R. Reyno Jr. Heading the cast of veteran stakes runners are Philracom's Open Stakes Race winner Empire King (JM Ladiana), archrival Karera Para Sa Puson champ Cover Girl (JB Hernandez 52), and last year's Freedom Cup champion 6-year-old bay colt Freewind (DH Borbe Jr. 54).

P. Princesa hosts officiating seminar

THE CITY of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, courtesy of its mayor, Edward S. Hagedorn, is hosting a basketball officiating seminar being conducted by FIBA International Referee Richard Villanueva at the City Coliseum. The seminar, organized by Emmanuel Hitosis, Sports & Games Regulation Officer II and Sports Development Program Manager of the City Sports Office on the instruction of City Administrator Agustin Rocamora, aims to refresh local basketball referees and basketball aficionados on the new amendments/ rules and regulations in amateur basketball. It started yesterday and will run up to today. The seminar is part of the preparation for the Mayor's Cup Basketball Challenge which starts on Feb. 27.

Largahan 5-cock blasts off Saturday

WITH so many provincial entries coming in, the "Largahan 5-Cock Derby" of Roligon Mega Cockpit slated on Feb. 26, 28, March 2 and 4 is expected to register more than 300 entries. The event is being hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, who put up a jackpot guaranteed prize of P1.5 million. Entry fee is P4,400. The fastest kill champion will drive a Toyota 4x4 Surf. Participants must submit their entries tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and may call 833-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812 for details. The first batch of about 100 participants are seeing action on Saturday's opening round (2-cock). The second and third round are slated on Feb. 28 and March 2, and the finals on March 4. Meanwhile, Roligon's new hackfight schedule starts on March 3 and every Thursday thereafter. The first 20 winners get P1,000 each and the remaining winners, P600 each. Registration fee is P200.

SENIOR GOLFERS: Federation of Philippine Amateur Senior Golfers Inc. president Col. Abe Villanueva (second from right), external affairs vice president Anthony Fernandez (second from left) and internal affairs vice president Gen. Manuel Mariano (right) are inducted by FPASGI chair-president recently. Other officers this year are treasurer Rodolfo Angus, assistant treasurer Lirio Escano Jr., secretary general Salvador Malbarosa, auditor Cip San Miguel and directors Felipe Judan, Rodrigo Pepito, Gen. Boy Tayko, Roger Urbanes and Jacinto Perez Sr.

Training pool begins final workouts

EXCEPT for the Ginebra players who are due to return from vacation today, all invited players in the RP training pool attended the start of the final series of workouts yesterday at the refurbished Moro Lorenzo Sports Center.

Even Yancy de Ocampo, the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals center who was supposed to fly to Sarasota to attend an NBA training camp last week, was present along with teammates Willie Miller, Jimmy Alapag and Mark Telan, who sat out the session with a mild hamstring pull.

Eric Menk is expected to fly in from the US today, Romel Adducul from Tuguegarao, and Mark Caguioa from Boracay.

De Ocampo's travel documents apparently didn't arrive in time, while the status of Ginebra playmaker Jayjay Helterbrand, who fractured his leg four weeks ago, is on a day-to-day basis.

"I can't answer you on that," says RP coach Chot Reyes of Helterbrand's case. "We will have to evaluate the situation and make a decision."

The 9-12 noon sessions, with 39 players on the list, run for the rest of the week, with Reyes making the final cut to 18 on Feb. 28. He will submit the lineup to the PBA board later that day before making the official announcement with Commissioner Noli Eala, Tuesday, at the PSA Forum.

Norman Black, Tim Cone and Jong Uichico, former RP-Asian Games mentors, attended the workout as members of the national coaching staff.

Amateur standouts Anthony Washington, J.R. Reyes and L.A. Tenorio were also present.

The players went through their previous activities, pressure and trapping defenses, and four-on-four scrimmages.

Del Monte entries top Delo 4x4 meet

THE DEL MONTE 4 Wheelers dominated the 1st Caltex Delo Sports Synthetic Blend-North Luzon Invitational Race at the Laoag City River Bank in a mighty show of force that had their drivers earning the top four spots.

Gilbert Maningas led the charge of the Del Monte 4 Wheelers with a consistent ride in all the tracks A, B and C, for a tournament-leading aggregate of 10 minutes, 28.37 seconds. Maningas was awesome in the tough second track, which he negotiated in just three minutes and 21 seconds.

Maningas was followed by teammates Butch Nicolas (12:27.18), Zaldy Fernando (12:45.54) and Edwin Santos (13:47.31) in the event also known as the 1st MV Fariñas 4x4 Race and sponsored by Caltex Delo Sports, the synthetic blend of which is perfect for extreme 4x4 racing and sports utility vehicles (SUVs), in gasoline or diesel-powered engines.

Hosted by the Pinakbet 4x4 Club and sanctioned by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (NAsFOR), the invitational race is the first in a series of regional invitational races.

The Del Monte 4 Wheelers' sent seven riders in the Top 11, with Rey Herrera (44:41.75), Paul Herrera (45:25.50) and Ambet Nicolas (46:08.93) occupying the 9th-11th places. Breaking Del Monte's dominance were Arthur Ascuna, 5th with a time of 15:29.00, Manila Off-Roaders' Richard Sy (16:11.42) and NAsFOR president Brian Diaz (18:13.91), 6th and 8th, and Balayan Off-Road Club's Mao Ramos (17:30.50), who finished 7th.

SUPERKID ENRIQUEZ: Rafael "Rapräp" Enriquez, the eight-year-old Super Kid of motocross, took 1st place in the 4th leg of the 2005 NAMSSA National Motocross Series' Peewee Division in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, after winning the 3rd leg in San Fernando, La Union, and the Baguio City Invitational Races. Enriquez, who is the 2004 Asian Peewee Motocross Champion, represented the country in the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship in Guam last January. Enriquez, being sponsored by Philippine Airlines and Dickies, also topped the Guam vs Philippines Moto Challenge recently.

RP gymnasts start American Cup campaign

FIVE of the country's top gymnasts will compete in the American Cup, one of the toughest gymnastics tournaments in the United States today and tomorrow as part of their preparation for the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Brothers Roel, Al and Ronnie, Bonnie Brydon Sy and Tammy de Guzman, the lone lady gymnast in the group, left for Long Island, New York, last Monday to compete in various disciplines in the tournament which will be held at the Nassau Stadium.

Roel will see action in the floor exercise and the vault; Al will take part in the rings and pommel horse events; Ronnie will try his luck in the horizontal and horse vault while Sy will see action in the rings and parallel bars.

De Guzman, meanwhile, will compete in four events—floor exercise, balance beam, uneven bars and horse vault.

The gymnasts will be accompanied by national coach Santiago "Sonny" Ty and his assistant, Robingen Padiz.

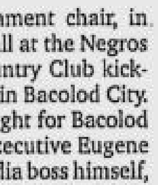
Acting team manager of the group will be Johnny Valdez to be assisted by ex-pro cager Billy Abarrientos, who are both based in the United States.

Gymnastics Association of the Philippines president Noel "Chuck" Buenaventura said the gymnasts' participation will further hone their skills in their respective disciplines.

Expected to show their wares in the three-day competition are gymnasts from various states in the US, delegates from Europe and Asia-Pacific and China.

Why the PAL Interclub is a favorite

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THERE are events that I like covering over the years. Take the PAL Interclub Golf Championship. It's a favorite of mine not simply because golf has been my game for 20 years now. It's more than that.

For one, it gives me the opportunity to see people I haven't seen for a year, or even more than that—both special and non-special.

Since the tournament practically assembles this country's best and brightest from the amateur ranks, not to mention also the duffers like me, the tournament is a built-in occasion to swap hi-fives with buddies and non-buddies alike. Renewal. Hello and goodbye have always been words of endearment to me.

For another, I like the spirit of competition in the PAL Interclub. Participants here put premium on victory but alongside that latent human nature is the strict observance of sportsmanship in the tournament. The terms of engagement here are well defined: Fair play at all times.

The handshakes before the start of play, the hugs after the last putt has been dropped, the raising of glasses during the awarding ceremonies, why, they are more than gestures of humankind's salute to civilization.

My coverage of the event dates back to the Seventies, when there were but three major newspapers then: Bulletin Today, Daily Express and The Times Journal. I was with the Bulletin starting in 1974, moving to this newspaper in 1986 upon the instigation of Eggie Apostol, the grand lady of Philippine journalism.

Back then, the inimitable Eking Santos was our media mogul and the ever mild-mannered Avelino Zapanta was a cog in providing us, press people, the scores of the day. Both have retired—Eking as VP for corporate communications and Ave as president himself of PAL. Their successors—the witty Rollie Estabillo for Eking, and the forever-smiling Jimmy Bautista for Ave—are also well-loved like their predecessors.

At 8 a.m. today, Jimmy Bautista will lead a clutch of VIPs that will include Doming Duerme, tournament chair, in hitting the ceremonial ball at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club kicking off the PAL Interclub in Bacolod City. Jimmy left Manila last night for Bacolod in the company of PAL executive Eugene Labadan and the PAL media boss himself, Rollie Estabillo. The tournament will be held simultaneously at Bacolod Golf & Country Club in nearby Binitin, Murcia. The seniors event is set Feb. 25-27 and the men's regular March 2-5.

Good luck on that ceremonial shot, Jimmy.

Pssst, Doming, don't breathe while Jimmy does his back swing, please?

I like Bacolod that much, not only because of its world-famous *inasal na manok*, *guinatang alimusan* and that *tilapia*-looking fish (what's its name again?) that when broiled tastes like heaven when dipped into *siling labuyo*-laden *sinamak*. Boy, I can't wait to go to Joe Cajili's place, if not join Bitay Lacson, Ramon Uy and Batchoy Henares in a session to partake of Bacolod's version of food for the gods while reminiscing the good, old times.

Isn't it said that living well is the best revenge?

***

The PAL Interclub was ongoing in Davao City the day our dear friend, Danny Floro, breathed his last. That was 10 years ago today, Feb. 24. I had to fly back to Manila for the wake and the funeral.

In my eulogy, I paid tribute to Danny's sincerity as a friend, "one who never used our friendship to influence me to write about him and Crispa." Had he done so, I might have vacillated. He was like a father to me.

One night when we were alone, Danny cried like a baby pouring out his emotions about how he had struggled to achieve success for Crispa, both as a business empire that it still is today and as a basketball dynasty (two-time grand slam PBA champion in 1976 and 1983).

Oh, how he valued thoughts, gifts, thrown his way, no matter how insignificantly small they were. A bag of peanuts, a dozen yellow bananas, a plate of "adidas" (chicken feet). Big deal. No wonder the funeral cortege virtually drew all from all walks of life, many of whom Danny had touched. Had he not succumbed to cancer in 1995, Danny would be 81 today.

It's been a decade since you left, Danny. Your buddies from the Maddogan Golf Club do miss you.

***

FASTBREAK. My felicitations go to the men and women behind the Omega Cup that starts today at Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao City. Thank you for your invitation but the PAL Interclub has gotten in the way. If I get the luck to be invited again next year, God willing, I'll join you.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

‘Sluggish’ Safin bows out in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Marat Safin, playing his first match since winning the Australian Open three weeks ago, was beaten Tuesday in the opening round of the $1 million Dubai Open, eliminated by Germany’s Nicolas Kiefer, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

SAFIN

Safin looked sluggish and was admittedly uncomfortable against the 30th-ranked Kiefer.

Kiefer “was playing the kind of game that doesn’t give you any sort of rhythm,” the second-seeded Russian said. “Chipping and charging, slicing and spinning and changing the power.”

In the day’s marquee match, Tim Henman saved one match point and rallied to beat Greg Rusedski, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4, for his fifth straight victory over his fellow Briton.

Kiefer, the 2000 Dubai champion and a two-time finalist in the United Arab Emirates, earned grudging applause from a capacity crowd, which overwhelmingly supported Safin.

“It is never easy against Marat,” Kiefer said. “He is one of the top players in the world and has just won the Australian Open. So yes, I am very happy with my game today.”

Safin never appeared in control and credited Kiefer for capitalizing.

“Kiefer has a lot of experience. He saw I wasn’t very comfortable on the court and he seized the moment,” Safin said. *AP*

Raptors make Carter look bad

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—The sight of his old team made Vince Carter look like the player the Toronto Raptors wanted to get rid of.

Carter struggled in his first game against the team that traded him to New Jersey earlier this season, missing 17 of 25 shots while being outplayed by Jalen Rose in Toronto’s 100-82 victory over the Nets on Tuesday night.

“He probably was a little tired from All-Star weekend,” Rose said of Carter. “While he was running up and down the court throwing it off the backboard, I was laying on the beach drinking a fruity drink with an umbrella.”

“So I probably gave myself an unfair advantage on that one.”

Rose shot 12-for-15, scored 30 points and did a fine defensive job on Carter.

“It’s disappointing, the way we played,” Carter said. “It’s always a concern coming out of the All-Star break how your team makes its comeback after the break. It looked OK early, it got worse the rest of the night.”

Rose led the Raptors on a 14-4 run early in the fourth quarter, and New Jersey never recovered. Chris Bosh had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Milt Palacio added 13 points for Toronto, which had six players in double figures.

Carter scored 22 points, and Jason Kidd added 20 for the Nets.

In Orlando, Florida, Jermaine O’Neal scored 20 points in 22 minutes, and Fred Jones added 18 points as Indiana downed the Magic, 108-84.

Jamaal Tinsley, returning from a foot injury, had 11 points and six assists. He missed all but two minutes of the previous eight games.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince each scored 19 points and Detroit beat New York, 97-88, for its fifth straight victory and 10th in 11 games.

Chauncey Billups added 15 points and eight assists, and Rasheed Wallace had 12 points, eight rebounds and four blocks. Jamal Crawford had 23 points for the Knicks, who fell to 5-20 in 2005.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Michael Redd scored 39 points on 15-of-24 shooting in his return to Milwaukee’s lineup as the Bucks beat the Bobcats, 112-102.

Redd, sidelined the last three games due to a sprained index finger, scored 14 points in the fourth quarter to break open a close game and help the Bucks snap a two-game losing streak. Brevin Knight led Charlotte with 19 points.

In Houston, Ray Allen scored 29 points, capped by two freethrows with 16.7 seconds left, to help Seattle snap the Rockets’ winning streak at eight games with an 87-85 thriller.

Houston had a chance to tie it with 5 seconds left, but Scott Padgett’s 3-point attempt was short and Allen came up with the rebound.

In Chicago, Ben Gordon hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and overtime to finish with 29 points as the Bulls edged Miami, 105-101.

Miami center Shaquille O’Neal did not return after straining his left knee in a fall in the opening minutes. X-rays were negative and he will be re-evaluated before the Heat’s game against Indiana on Wednesday night.

In Sacramento, California, Chris Webber scored 30 points, Mike Bibby had 23 and Sacramento beat Atlanta, 114-104, for just its second victory in eight games.

Brad Miller had 16 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for the Kings.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant and Lamar Odom each scored 21 points, and Chris Mihm had 19 points and 15 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers downed Boston, 104-95.

Paul Pierce and Ricky Davis scored 25 points each for the Celtics. *AP*

NEW JERSEY star Vince Carter soars for a ballet-like slam against Toronto forward Chris Bosh. But, don’t let the fine form fool you. Carter struggled badly against his former team. REUTERS

The suspense ends tonight

AT LAST, THE 1st CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS NIGHT is here. After subjecting 62 brand new 2004 model motor vehicles to instrumentation and qualitative tests last October and November, the CAR AWARDS GROUP consisting of over 20 motoring journalists will honor tonight the BEST-IN-CLASS WINNERS of 10 different categories and five SPECIAL AWARDS.

The proclamation of the CAR OF THE YEAR will highlight the event. Starting tomorrow until Sunday, THE BEST OF THE BEST will be on public display at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall lobby.

The 1st CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS was made possible by the support of the AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES, MANILA MOTOR SHOW, STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC., MANILA NORTH TOLLWAYS CORP., ROCKWELL LAND, Sycip Gorres Velayo, Caltex, Bridgestone, Bosch, Reebok and Auto Depot Ortigas. And by the cooperation of the car manufacturers who lent their products for the tests.

Let us all celebrate tonight the achievements of THE PHILIPPINE CAR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY which is vital to our country’s economic growth!

CAR of the YEAR

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
AAP
PHILIPPINES
The National Auto Club

presents

1st CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Find out the best of the best

Thursday, February 24, 2005, 8pm at the Rockwell Tent at the Plaza

In cooperation with

Manila Motor Show

Rockwell Center
Rockwell Land Corporation

Sponsored By

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.

Manila North Luzon Tollways (MNTC)

CALTEX
BRIDGESTONE
PASSION for EXCELLENCE
BOSCH

Organized by Car Awards Group Inc.

HOPE
₱1-MILLION
ALL-FILIPINO
OPEN

SCOREBOARD

Watch the action
LIVE on IBC-13
Feb. 21-27, 2005
8:00-10:30 pm
JEMAH

Yesterday's Results

Won	Lost
R. Luat	W. Klamco
G. Valle	J. Alba
J. De Luna	R. Dy
E. Reyes	E. Acaba

Today's Games

Studio 13

A. Gabica	vs.	L.V. Corteza
F. Bustamante	vs.	A. Pagulayan
	vs.	
	vs.	
	vs.	
	vs.	

HOPE
₱1-MILLION
ALL-FILIPINO
OPEN

RUBEN M. CRUZ Jr., friend

Gentle sendoff for a gentle man

From page A28

long ago, my wife told me, 'Gary, Louie Camino is coming over.' My first reaction was, 'A press person is coming to my room, my music room.' I don't have anything against the media. There's always this excitement and hope that somehow you'd strike a good relationship with whoever you're going to meet. Angeli set up the whole house, and even brought out some wine. All the while I was thinking, 'This person must be really special to my wife.' He lived up to everything my wife described him to be."

Kuh said Louie visited her at her Hacienda Isabella in Tagaytay two months ago. "I really didn't think that Louie would go [so] soon. He looked so strong. I was glad I was able to know Louie and share with him some of my blessings. I sat down with him and got to talk with him about the Lord, about his cancer, and about his fears. I must tell you that when I learned about Louie's death, I realized that life is very short, and that I should spend more time with people who need a lot of attention—prayers and all that. I just hope Louie's death reminds us to spend more time with the people we love."

Shy man

Louie's friends—Richard, Ramon Jacinto, INQUIRER contributor Ruben Cruz Jr. and ABS-CBN's Peachy Guioguio and Leah Salterio—organized a benefit show, "For a Very Special Friend," at the Merk's Bar Bistro. It was held last September. Many of Louie's artist friends performed.

Roselyn Domingo, Louie's niece, said her uncle was not completely agreeable to the benefit show. She said Louie was really shy and never wanted to draw attention to himself. "He sent us a text message right on the night of the show to tell us to get to Greenbelt at 8 p.m.," she recalled. "It was there that I witnessed how well-loved my uncle was."

Louie's brother, Ling Pelobello, and sister-in-law Dolly, recalled how Louie struggled before he could accept his illness. Ling said Louie had persistent dry cough and back pains in January of last year. A pulmonologist said Louie had tuberculosis; another doctor spotted the lung cancer shortly.

Mentor

Publicist Annie Ringor described how she "laughed, cried and held his hand" for six hours during Louie's first chemotherapy session.

"He told me he was afraid," Annie said. "That was the first time I heard him say that. He said he was scared of the pain, of the needle."

The speakers also included Louie's nephew Einstein Pelobello, INQUIRER columnist Mandy Navasero and businesswoman Nini Licaros.

Nini shared fond memories of her "editor for many years." Louie was news editor of People's Journal when Nini was a columnist there.

"Louie, I will miss you," Nini said. "I will miss the many dinners we had at my house, the going out at night. You were not only a friend to me, but a mentor. Goodbye."

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD Can be YOUR CINEMA!

Open for **advance screenings, theater rentals for production launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions.** ***PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.***

For interested parties, you may contact **Marketing Services Department** 687-7945 to 47 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS See it At its Best!

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

NOW SHOWING

From George Lucas' ILM Company, who created the special effects for STAR WARS and HARRY POTTER series, comes the year's most stunning visual experience. Based on the popular Dark Horse Comic character.

SEQUEL TO THE #1 BOXOFFICE HIT

SON OF THE MASK
THE POWER OF MISCHIEF

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY)	SON OF THE MASK
2 (DOLBY)	LEMONY SNICKET'S
3 (DOLBY)	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13
4 (DOLBY)	CONSTANTINE PG13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	CONSTANTINE
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	LET THE LOVE BEGIN

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2	CONSTANTINE
3	NIGHT JOB

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CONSTANTINE
5	NIGHT JOB

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	INFECTION
2	NIGHT JOB
3	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4	DREAMBOY
5 (DOLBY)	CONSTANTINE
6	SON OF THE MASK

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	KUNG FU SHUSTLE
2	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	LEMONY SNICKETS
2 (SDDS)	SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DTS)	CONSTANTINE
4 (GOLD DTS)	CONSTANTINE
5 (GOLD DOLBY)	THE AVIATOR
6 (GOLD SDDS)	THE AVIATOR
7 (GOLD DOLBY)	MASK - 2 SON OF THE MASK
8 (SDDS)	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9	DREAMBOY
10	INFECTION

Araneta Center CINEMA GUIDE
For Inquiries Pls. Call TICKETNET 911-5555

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10

Level 4, Gateway Mall
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ALL THEATERS IN DOLBY EX ULTRA SOUND. FULL STADIUM SEATING AND EXCLUSIVE VISTA COMPUTER TICKET SYSTEM GUARANTEED SEATS, NO STANDING ROOM.

- THE AVIATOR
- SON OF THE MASK
- LEMONY SNICKET'S
- INFECTION
- LET THE LOVE BEGIN
- CONSTANTINE
- PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
- SHALL WE DANCE

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	LEMONY SNICKET'S
2	CONSTANTINE
3	THE AVIATOR
4	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5	SON OF THE MASK

MARKET! MARKET! Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	LET THE COVE BEGIN
2	NIGHT JOB
3	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4	

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MASK - 2 SON OF THE MASK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DTS EX)	CONSTANTINE
4	RAISE YOUR VOICE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2	RAISE YOUR VOICE
3 (DOLBY)	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 (DTS)	CONSTANTINE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DOLBY)	MEET THE FOCKERS
4 (DTS)	ELEKTRA

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2	MEET THE FOCKERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	LEMONY SNICKET'S
2 (DOLBY)	CONSTANTINE
3 (DOLBY)	THE AVIATOR
4 (DOLBY)	MASK - 2 SON OF THE MASK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	RAISING STRIPE
2 (DTS)	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY)	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4	CONSTANTINE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 (DOLBY)	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DTS)	CONSTANTINE
4	RAISING STRIPE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	MEET THE FOCKERS
2	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY)	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2	SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY)	NED KELLY
4 (DTS)	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1	CONSTANTINE
2	SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY)	LET THE LOVE BEGIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	NIGHT JOB
2	
3	
4 (DTS)	

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS)	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4	CONSTANTINE
5	RAISING STRIPE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	DREAMBOY
2	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 (DTS)	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY)	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2	CONSTANTINE
3	SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
4	RAISING STRIPE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	NIGHT JOB
2	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
Entertainment Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CINEPLEX 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS

THE AVIATOR	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
SON OF THE MASK	CONSTANTINE
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
INFECTION	SHALL WE DANCE
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	❹ LET THE LOVE BEGIN
❷ CONSTANTINE	❺ SON OF THE MASK
❸ THE AVIATOR	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ALL FEATURES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10	*Free Movie Pass for every P400 purchase at Taco Bell promo runs up to March 24, 2005*
ARANETA COLISEUM	*Fire Dance Spectacular February 24 to 27* *Jars of Clay: Show You Love March 2*
GATEWAY MALL	*performance by Mishka Adams at The Gazebo February 25*
COLISEUM CIRCLE	*Cool Jazz, Cool Classics every Fridays & Saturdays*
SHOPWISE STRIP	*Acoustic Performances at Gloria Jeans February 26*

NOW OPEN

Le Coeur De France *Upper Ground Floor, Ali Mall*
Rustan's Dept. Store *Upper Ground Floor, Level 2 & 3, Gateway Mall*
Italianni's, Cafe Havana, Cafe Adriatico *Ground Floor /* Cibo *Level 2, Gateway Mall*
Superbowl Of China & Food Express *Level 3, Gateway Mall*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

SHOW TIME

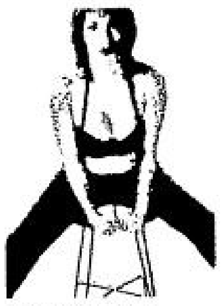
Fire Dance at Araneta, AiAi at Zirkoh

THE FIRE Dance Cirque performs at the Araneta Coliseum starting today until Feb. 27. The troupe, whose members consist of multiracial aerobats and dancing musicians, create large-scale production numbers from traditional tribal dances.

For its efforts, Fire Dance Cirque has earned rave reviews worldwide.

Gala presentation tonight starts at 8, and follow-though performances are set 3 and 8 p.m. from tomorrow. Tickets are available at ALV Events International (633-98-25 to 27) and all TicketNet outlets (911-55-55).

Ai Wanna Dance


AIAI delas Alas

AIAI Delas Alas stages her first-ever dance concert, "Ai Wanna Dance," tonight at Zirko Comedy Bar on Timog Avenue. Six big production numbers have been conceptualized and choreographed for the comedian by different dance groups. Joining AiAi tonight is Archie Alemania. "Ai Wanna Dance" is one of 10 shows being mounted for the bar's first anniversary celebration. For details and reservations, call 374-8202 and 374-8270. Or text (0917) 810-9394.

Avril and Simple Plan

TWO big Canadian acts are coming to Manila for a show together: Avril Lavigne and the band Simple Plan (Pierre Bouvier, Chuck Comeau, David Desrosieres, Sebastian Lefebvre and Jeff Stinco). The one-night-only concert is set March 31, 8 p.m., at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field, Taguig.

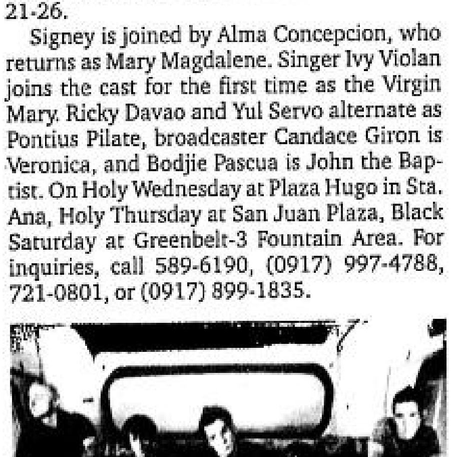
Since releasing their first album, "No Pads, No Helmets ... Just Balls" in 2002, Simple Plan has gone on to enjoy big success in the music scene, selling millions of albums and sharing the stage with major acts like Aerosmith.

Avril Lavigne is a Junos and MTV Asia awardee. For details, call 891-9999 or 687-1125.

Kristo

AFTER English teacher and theater actor Richard Signey played Christ in Tanghalang Sta. Ana's "Martir sa Golgota" last year, there was no turning back. He plays the same role again in repeats of the *senaculo* from March 21-26.

Signey is joined by Alma Concepcion, who returns as Mary Magdalene. Singer Ivy Violan joins the cast for the first time as the Virgin Mary. Ricky Davao and Yul Servo alternate as Pontius Pilate, broadcaster Candace Giron is Veronica, and Bodjie Pascua is John the Baptist. On Holy Wednesday at Plaza Hugo in Sta. Ana, Holy Thursday at San Juan Plaza, Black Saturday at Greenbelt-3 Fountain Area. For inquiries, call 589-6190, (0917) 997-4788, 721-0801, or (0917) 899-1835.

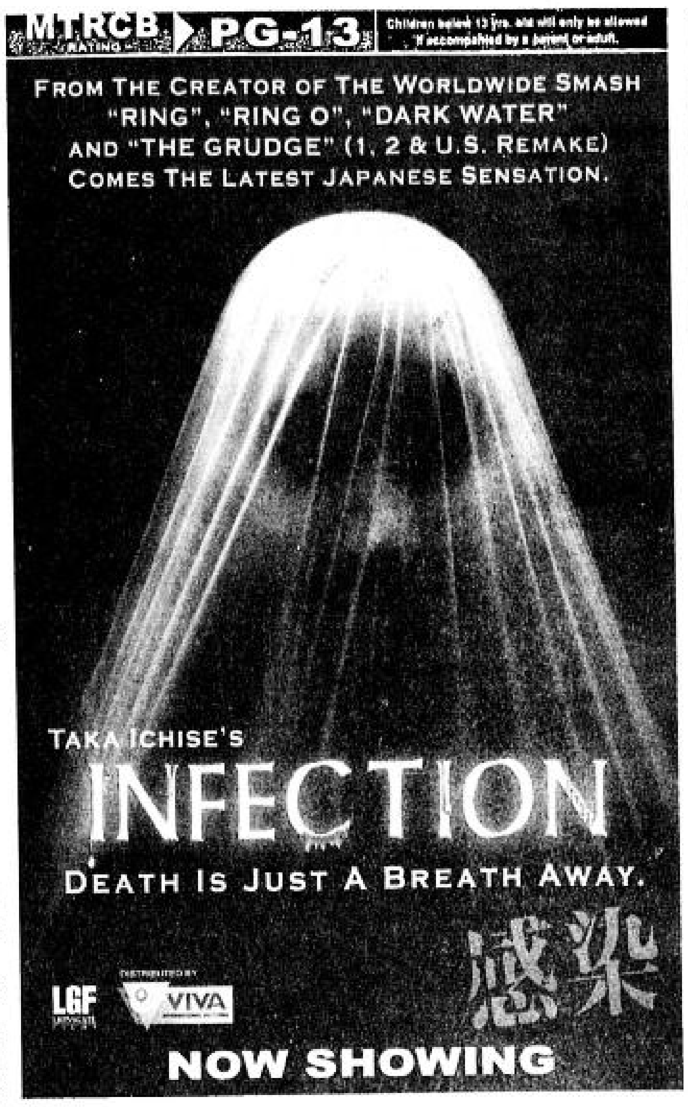

SIMPLE Plan

Do you know how to sing?

RYAN Cayabyab

RYAN Cayabyab will conduct a seminar-workshop on "The Real Score in Solo Singing" at the Seminar Room of the Megatrade hall of the Megamall on Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Cayabyab says the seminar is mainly about meeting judges' criteria in singing contests. It is part of the National Arts and Music Festival Trade Exhibit in connection with National Arts Month. For inquiries, call 844-3330 or (0917) 909-6484.


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE CREATOR OF THE WORLDWIDE SMASH "RING", "RING O", "DARK WATER" AND "THE GRUDGE" (1, 2 & U.S. REMAKE) COMES THE LATEST JAPANESE SENSATION.

TAKA ICHISE'S
INFECTION
DEATH IS JUST A BREATH AWAY.
感染

LGF
DISTRIBUTED BY VIVA

NOW SHOWING

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CONSTANTINE PG13 12:00,2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	SON OF THE MASK GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	LEMONY SNICKET'S UNFORTUNATE EVENTS GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
AVIATOR PG13 11:50,3:10,6:30,9:50	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13 12:30,3:20,6:10,9:00	AVIATOR PG13 12:30,3:50,7:10,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Let The Love Begin	1 Infection	1 Kung Fu Hustle
4 Constantine	2 Night Job	2 Reserved
5 Night Job	3 Let The Love Begin	Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World tokens for every ticket purchase
	4 Dreamboy	
	5 Constantine	
	6 Son of the Mask	

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented! DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 SON OF THE MASK GP
CINEMA 2 AVIATOR PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① SON OF THE MASK
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

② LEMONY SNICKET'S A Series of Unfortunate Events
MTRCB (GP)

③ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB (PG - 13)

④ CONSTANTINE
MTRCB (PG - 13)

PREMIERE THEATRE

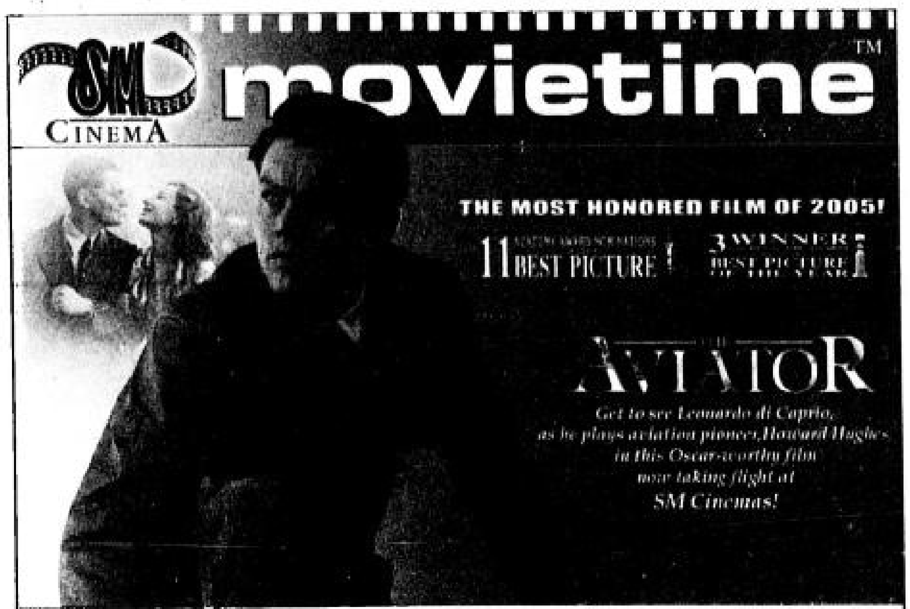
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special Treats
Enjoy a 20% discount on Matinee Show tickets at the Cineplex, except on selected blockbuster movies.
From Monday to Friday: all Matinee Shows' screenings are scheduled before 4pm. For more details, please see the film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.

*Enjoy Sweet Cinema Treats at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for every P150.00 in accumulated receipts, same day purchase of food and any Nestle drinks at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for Premiere Theatre patrons (1 per patron).
Promo runs from February 7-28, 2005.
*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-272 Series of 2005

Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theatre - P200
includes unlimited popcorn and beverages
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150

Shangri-La Plaza

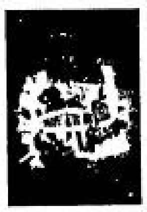

SM CINEMA movietime™

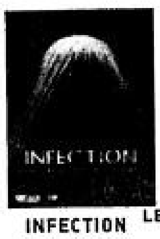
THE MOST HONORED FILM OF 2005!
11 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE
3 WINNER BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR

THE AVIATOR
Get to see Leonardo di Caprio, as he plays aviation pioneer, Howard Hughes in this Oscar-worthy film now taking flight at SM Cinemas!

OPENS THIS WEEK

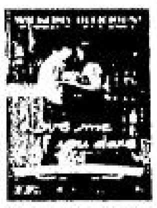
smcinema EXCLUSIVE


SON OF MASK
MTRCB Rating: G


INFECTION
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENT
MTRCB Rating: G

AVIATOR
MTRCB Rating: PG


LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
MTRCB Rating: R13

NOW SHOWING

THE PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 6976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
11:05 FS/11:35 MF/1:50 /4:05/6:20/8:35
10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 12:40 END

2 THE AVIATOR
12:10 FS/ 12:45 MF / 4:10 / 7:35
10:25 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 11:50 END

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 THE AVIATOR
5 INFECTION
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 ELEKTRA
8 DREAMBOY
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 CONSTANTINE
11 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
12 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city fairview
1 DREAMBOY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 ELEKTRA
4 CONSTANTINE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 THE AVIATOR
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 SON OF THE MASK
9 INFECTION
10 MEET THE FOCKERS
11 SHALL WE DANCE
12 5 CHILDREN AND IT

sm city north edsa
1 DREAMBOY
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 INFECTION
5 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
6 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
7 CONSTANTINE
8 THE AVIATOR

sm city manila
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 THE AVIATOR
5 SON OF THE MASK
6 CONSTANTINE
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 INFECTION
10 DREAMBOY
11 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
12 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm city sta. mesa
1 SON OF THE MASK
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 THE AVIATOR
4 DREAMBOY
5 CONSTANTINE
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 INFECTION
10 ELEKTRA

sm city southmall
1 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 CONSTANTINE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 ELEKTRA
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 DREAMBOY
8 THE AVIATOR
9 CONSTANTINE
10 INFECTION

sm city bicutan
1 THE AVIATOR
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 THE AVIATOR
4 SON OF THE MASK

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 CONSTANTINE
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 THE AVIATOR
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city baguio
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE

sm city batangas
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE
3 CONSTANTINE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city dasmariñas
1 INFECTION
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 CONSTANTINE

sm city marilao
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 RACING STRIPES
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm city bacoor
1 DREAMBOY
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 THE AVIATOR
4 INFECTION
5 CONSTANTINE
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

sm city lucena
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 MADHOUSE
4 DREAMBOY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 MUSICAL PUPPET SHOW
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
5 DREAMBOY
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 CONSTANTINE

sm city iloilo
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 RESERVED
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 CONSTANTINE
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 RESERVED
8 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city davao
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 RACING STRIPES
5 DREAMBOY
6 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city cagayan de oro
1 CONSTANTINE
2 ALFIE
3 RACING STRIPES
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES,

SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR EVENT!
SM CINEMA LIVE!
concert • convention • product launch • seminars • graduation • symposium • reunions • stage plays
• Largest seating capacity
• Right at the heart of the city!
• Offers the BEST VALUE among other venues!
For Inquiries: call 8317000 local 2682
Visit www.smcinema.com

ERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

t us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Gentle sendoff for a gentle man

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

HE CALLED me his guardian angel. Now that he's gone, he's definitely my angel in heaven. I encouraged him to have faith in the Lord, but it was he who encouraged me to share God's love with other people. Thank you for the friendship, Louie."

This was how talent manager Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano bade farewell to INQUIRER Entertainment Editor Louie Camino in her eulogy on Monday night at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel.

"We used to send text messages to each other for one hour," she said. "He would tell me things, encourage me to do this or that. He would say 'hang on my guardian angel.' When he was in pain he would text me, and I would text him back with a verse from the Bible about pain."

Angeli was at Louie's bedside a few hours before he died on Feb. 16. Earlier, in January, she was with him in the emergency room of Makati Medical Center. That was the night Louie experienced his most alarming brain seizures since he was diagnosed with lung cancer last year.

He was laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque on Tuesday morning. He was 52.

Angeli's husband, Gary Valenciano, as well as singers Kuh Ledesma and Richard Merk performed during Monday night's two-hour Necrological Mass. Richard was the presenter.

Gary recounted: "Not too

GENTLE/ A26

KUH LEDESMA "shared blessings" with her friend.

RICHARD MERK was a pillar of support till the end.

GARY VALENCIANO: "He was everything Angeli said he would be."

Family and friends recall tender, tearful moments with Louie Camino

ROSELYN DOMINGO, niece

MANDY NAVASERO, photographer

LING PELOBELLO, brother

ANGELI PANGILINAN: "He is my angel."

Learning from Louie

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

MY FRIEND Louie Camino bid this life goodbye 10 minutes past 10 p.m. on Wednesday. For a full year he fought the battle of his life against a cancer that started in his lungs and spread to his bones, and then to his brain. In the end, it was an old foe, "pneumonia," that got him. Even then he did not give up without a good struggle.

When talking about people we love who have passed away, we tend to say we'd rather discuss how they lived than how they died. Still, there's something to be said about how Louie looked death in the eye February of last year when the cancer was diagnosed, and did everything humanly possible to stave it off.

During gatherings with friends, when it was time to break up the party, Louie was never one to make a fuss. Always knowing the perfect time to make an exit, he would slip away quietly, preferring to take a cab home despite several offers to give him a ride.

But on Wednesday, Louie certainly did not want to just slip quietly into the night. There in his hospital bed, with all kinds of tubes stuck to his body and a machine helping him breathe, it was clear he wanted to linger for as long as he could.

I whispered in his ear, "It's all right, Louie. You gave it a good fight. It's time to go home." He was comatose, but I hoped he could hear me. Louie had told me earlier how he sometimes felt selfish for wanting to live. I scolded him for thinking such thoughts. But seeing him in such a wretched state, I wished he would let go.

Yet tears rolled down his cheeks, when Richard Merk said, "Hold on, Louie, hold on!" I realized my friend wasn't ready to throw in the towel.

Just an inconvenience

I should have known. Despite everything he had gone through—the painful chemotherapy treatments, the series of disheartening news about a cancer that refused to back down, the various complications that sent him in and out of the hospital—Louie never lost his will to live.

He carried on as though cancer was just another of life's inconveniences that should be dealt with, and deal with it he did the best way he knew how. That is, through prayer, friendship, humor, hard work and, every now and then, a good cry.

Louie would still report for work, often after chemotherapy treatments. That's how he wanted it. Although physically and emotionally drained, he would stay until the work was done, usually past midnight. He would always send me a text message before calling it a day. When he could not show up, he would do his editing at home, or wherever he was, for as long as his trusty laptop was with him.

We told him to take it easy, perhaps go on a long vacation and spend time with his brother in Canada. But he would always be worried about all those stories he had to edit, and all those pages he had to close.

Foolhardy? Journalism was Louie's one consuming passion, his first love. INQUIRER's decision to expand the entertainment section probably prolonged his life. In all our conversations, he talked about the volume of work to be done, but never complained. He just nagged me about writing more stories.

Amazing will

Louie worked just as hard at staying alive. On the eve of his death, he was every inch the picture of a man who had gone the distance with cancer and was about to lose by a unanimous decision. He was very pale. The only color on his body was from the needle marks on both arms and legs. He was breathing very hard.

Yet, there was no trace of resignation. Between gasps, he talked about getting better and going back to work and joked frequently about his shaved head, although I knew he felt very bad about that.

Where Louie found such an amazing will to live, I may never know. He had expressed his regret about having such little faith. Perhaps he thought that, being a theology school dropout, I would know more about this aspect than he did.

He was wrong. He taught me more about faith than all those theology classes put together. He taught me that the life God gave us, regardless of what we go through, is worth every breath.

To believe in life is faith. To want to live despite all suffering is to believe in the God of life Who conquers death.

Louie had faith, lots of it. I will miss him.

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinemas! Cinemas!

The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

① Let the Love Begin
② Dreamboy
③ Infection
④ Son of the Mask

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ Lemony Snickets
⑥ Constantine
⑦ The Aviator

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds

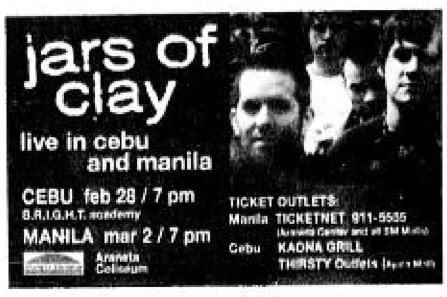
"UNFORGETTABLE"
MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE!
AT MARKET! MARKET!

Feb. 27, 2005, Sunday, 4:00pm
Activity Center, Market! Market!

Free seats for shoppers with P300 single purchase from Market! Market! regular stores on Feb 27, 2005

Events are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph


jars of clay
live in cebu and manila
CEBU feb 28 / 7 pm B.R.I.G.H.T. academy
MANILA mar 2 / 7 pm Araneta Coliseum
TICKET OUTLETS:
Manila TICKETNET 911-5555 (Araneta Center and all SM Malls)
Cebu KAONA GRILL THIRSTY Outlets

Unforgettable glimpse of a true genius

By Gibbs Cadiz
Lifestyle

REVIEW

IN A YEAR that saw the musical biopic take a steep plunge with the monstrosity that was "De-Lovely"—a graceless take, ironically enough, on the life of that most cosmopolitan of musical artists, Cole Porter—the genre found its saving grace in Taylor Hackford's "Ray."

"Ray" is a superior musical biopic not because it is devoid of convention or sentiment—it is not—but because it manages to be both heartfelt and judicious at the same time. As movies like this one go, "Ray's" amount of treacle is manageable, its subject matter dazzling enough to warrant forgiving its flaws.

And then, of course, there's that electrifying central performance by Jamie Foxx.

No doubt about it, Foxx's incarnation of the late Ray Charles in this film will be remembered as one of the most accomplished disappearing acts by any actor in celluloid history. Come Oscar time next week, he's sure to win Best Actor, and no recognition would be more richly deserved.

How tough a job is it to impersonate Charles on film? Herculean, if you consider that, by the time of his death in June 2004, Charles had sung his way to a fortified corner in the collective consciousness with his patented body language—upturned shoulders, arched back, face lit up in an expression that was part grin-part grimace—and the explosive, almost violent, singing and piano-playing.

Foxx triumphantly captures all these in "Ray," including the artist's peculiarly syncopated vocal patter. But where he truly scores is in fleshing out Charles' often turbulent offstage life in strokes more human than hagiographical.

The man that emerges from this movie is neither particularly endearing nor admirable. But Foxx makes him interesting every step of the way.

Destitute childhood

Charles was born Ray Charles Robinson in Florida, the elder of two kids, to a destitute laundrywoman. His brother George died young in a freak accident that Charles himself witnessed, and if the movie is to be believed, Charles spent much of his adult life, right up to his rehabilitation from heroin addiction in his 40s, tormented by guilt over George's death.

It's the kind of superficial Freudian shorthand that biopics customarily feel a need to indulge in to explain their subjects' darker motivations, and "Ray" is not one to buck the principle.

Mercifully, Hackford keeps these flashbacks few and far between (though they are gripping for the intense performance of Sharon Warren as Aretha, Charles' tough-loving mother).

By seven years old Charles was blind, by 15 he was orphaned. But he had a gift for tinkling the piano, and the film's opening finds the young musician heading for the city to work the nightclub circuit as a crooner in the mold of Nat King Cole.

His rise to the big leagues was slow and often distressing, but Charles was gritty, ambitious and unwilling to work with managers and band leaders who thought his blindness rendered him a pushover.

He struck gold when Atlantic Records took him on, coaxed him to find his style and essentially put him on the road to musical godhood.

It was in Atlantic's sound studios that Charles first unleashed the raw, primal sounds that would define his art and rewrite the rules of American music. Gone was the silky Nat Cole baritone. In its place was now a breathy, jumpy, unapologetically adult musical sensibility—one that, in time and with a shift to a more mainstream record company, would blaze a revolution by merging the various strains of gospel, blues, R&B, country, jazz and pop into the peerless, soulful Ray Charles sound.

Musical evolution

Hackford orchestrates this musical evolution with a masterful eye for period detail and an innate respect for the complexities that underlay Charles' long, white-hot summer of creativity.

It was at the beginning of this period that Charles became a junkie, and in an intriguing sequence, the movie implicitly makes the case that, perhaps, Charles' unstoppable talent derived some of its power from the strange ways his drug use was affecting him. Charles himself thought that as long as he was making good music, he could do what he damn well liked to himself.

But lest moral busybodies think "Ray" is a poster movie for junkies, it should be said that, elsewhere in his life, Charles was a comet spiraling out of control with his addiction, his serial womanizing and his callous way with longtime friends and band mates taking their heavy toll. Eventually, even the police would join the fray by threatening him with jail time for drug possession.

At this point in the venerable three-act moral universe of the biopic, where the hardscrabble rise to fortune is followed by a bagful of payback miseries at the top and then by redemption at a fork in the road, something clearly had to give.

So in the end—or so the movie tells us—Charles saw the light, entered rehab and never touched heroin again.

In truth, as Charles himself admitted in his autobiography, "Brother Ray," kicking the heroin habit meant turning to other stuff like alcohol and pot. His incorrigible way with women didn't stop, either.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ROPEOFSILICON.COM

"ELECTRIFYING" is the word for this actor's performance

> Jamie Foxx's incarnation of the late Ray Charles is one of the most accomplished disappearing acts by any actor in celluloid history

But Hackford may be forgiven for this omission and the movie's schematic drama, if only for the unflinching, direct way he deals with Charles' demons while also celebrating his explosive artistry.

The movie makes much of that feral energy by showcasing Foxx as Charles in remarkable musical sequences that trace the beginnings of his more famous recordings like "Hit the Road, Jack" and the scandalously torrid "What'd I Say."

Roaring era

To visualize this roaring era, Hackford creates a lovely look for the movie, all golden browns and sepia tints rendered in grainy film stock to suggest vintage Americana.

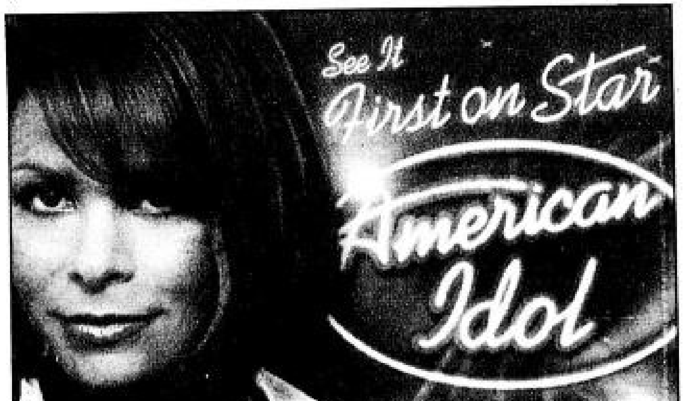
The color palette is also a boon to his performers, who transform the movie into a fine showcase for black pulchritude and acting talent.

The women in particular—Kerry Washington as Charles' wife Della Bea (actually his second wife; the movie is silent on the first), Aunjanue Ellis as Ann Fisher (Mistress No. 1) and Regina King as Margie Hendricks (Mistress No. 2)—register strongly with their taut, intelligent performances.

In the end, like Charles himself, "Ray" is a movie that demands to be admired despite its occasional slips.

In its vibrant evocation of musical history through the eternally shaded eyes of its hero, the movie is an unforgettable glimpse of a true genius.

(E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph)


See It First on Star
American Idol
Q: WHICH PAULA ABDUL MUSIC VIDEO GUEST STARRED KEANU REEVES?
STAR WORLD
EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
DIRECT OFF SATELLITE AT 4PM
PRIMETIME TELECAST AT 8PM
AVAILABLE ON DREAM SATELLITE TV CH 36
SKYCABLE CH 25 HOME CABLE CH 25 CABLELINK CH 35
AND CABLE SYSTEMS NATIONWIDE
BMG 94.7
"A" Rush Rush

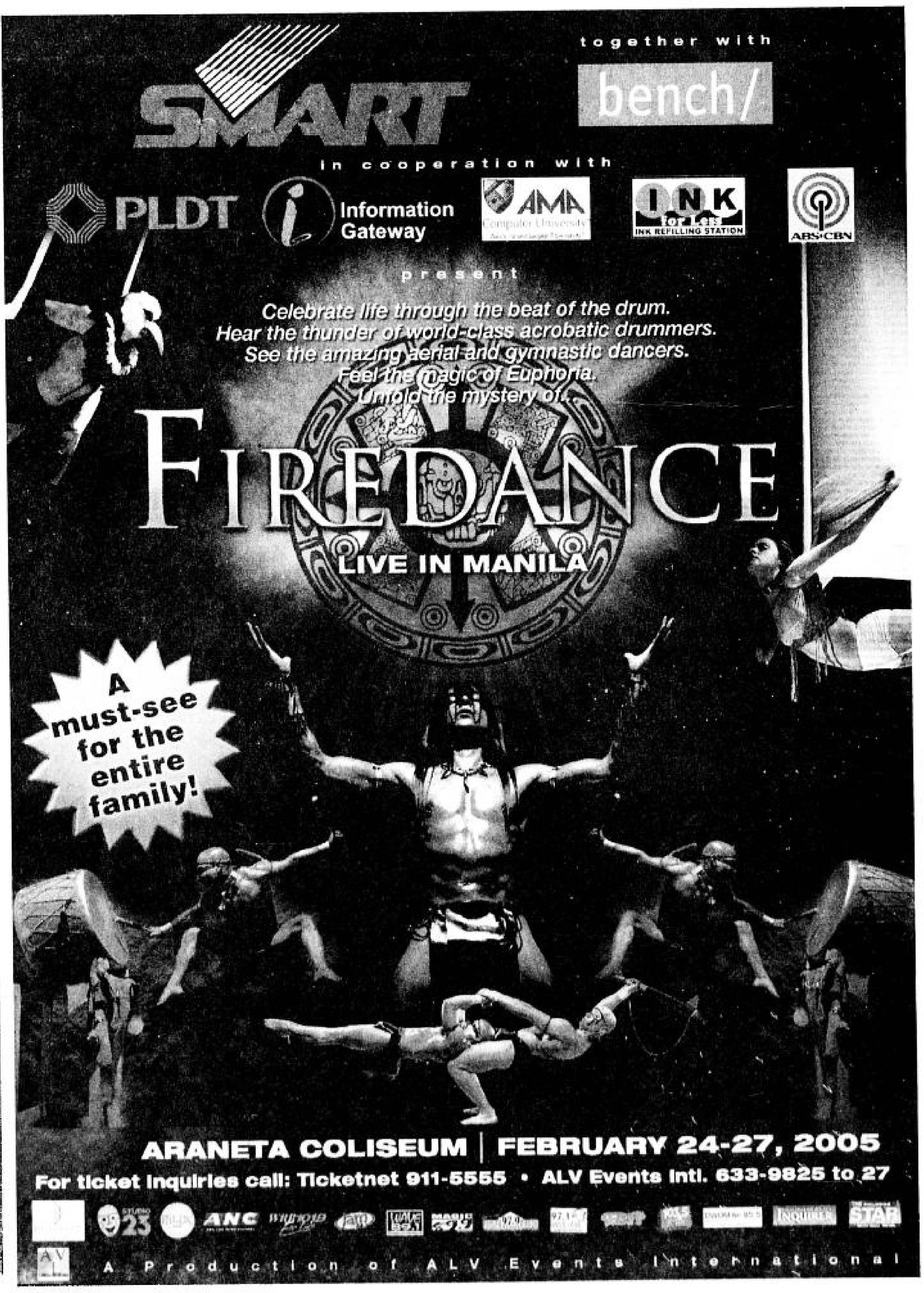
desirable.....undeniably white!
"Skin Whitening has never been this easy; I achieved total skin whitening in just a short time. Now, I finally got the confidence I've always wanted."
Martha Daniels
Model / Actress

Body Micro Peel
An intensive scrubbing to slough away dead skin cells. Highly effective to prominently lighten and even off body skin tone.

Underarm Whitening Treatment
A special whitening procedure proven to lighten dark underarms using a natural skin whitening agents. Now you can shed light on this part of the body.

Miracle Whitening Cream
The latest in skin lightening breakthrough, safely and dramatically whitens any dark spots of the body.
Guaranteed:
Visual result in just one week!

Celebrating 25 years in Aesthetic Service
Ellen's Aesthetic Center
TIMOG
WEST AVE.
LIBIS
MANILA
LAS PIÑAS
ANGELES
SAN FERNANDO
TARLAC
OLONGAPO
CAVITE
CALL: 374-6665
413-6357
438-8072


SMART together with bench/
in cooperation with PLDT Information Gateway AMA Computer University INK for Less Ink Refilling Station ABS-CBN
present
Celebrate life through the beat of the drum.
Hear the thunder of world-class acrobatic drummers.
See the amazing aerial and gymnastic dancers.
Feel the magic of Euphoria.
Unfold the mystery of...
FIREDANCE
LIVE IN MANILA
A must-see for the entire family!
ARANETA COLISEUM | FEBRUARY 24-27, 2005
For ticket inquiries call: Ticketnet 911-5555 • ALV Events Intl. 633-9825 to 27
A Production of ALV Events International

SeeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 THE AVIATOR	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	1 LEMONY SNICKET'S	5 SON OF THE MASK	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 CONSTANTINE 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:15	1 SON OF THE MASK
2 CONSTANTINE	2 THE AVIATOR	2 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	6 THE AVIATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE AVIATOR 1:00, 4:15, 7:25, 10:45	2 LEMONY SNICKET'S
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S	3 CONSTANTINE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CONSTANTINE [illegible]	7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SIDEWAYS 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 INFECTION	4 SON OF THE MASK	4 INFECTION		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	4 CONSTANTINE
5 SON OF THE MASK				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LEMONY SNICKET'S 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	5

GB1
GREENBELT 1

1 CONSTANTINE
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

2 THE AVIATOR
11:10, 2:25, 5:30, 8:55

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Toyota Car Exhibit February 24-28, 2005	Justice League February 25-27 2005	Wellness Revo February 24-27, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LNE!

GREENBELT 3 PARK	GREENBELT 3 LOBBY
Greenbelt Alfresco Theatre Nights Coming Soon in March	Vera Wang Gown Exhibit February 17-28, 2005

Onstage REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents Busybody
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - Feb. 11,12,13,18,19,20,25,26,27

Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117

Onstage
AYALA CINEMAS

Onstage Greenbelt
in Ayala Center, Makati City
is now accepting bookings
for concerts, product launches
and other corporate events
for May to July 2005.

For bookings, please call
Lissa at 752 7862

"WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR! POWERFUL!"
— Tony Toscano, TALKING PICTURES

"Brooks makes Spanglish a rich blend of humor and heartbreak."
— Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"Spanglish is a performer's showcase."
— Mike Clark, USA TODAY

[illegible] (Paz Vega), a beautiful, native Mexican woman becomes the housekeeper for the affluent, yet troubled Clasky family [illegible] headed by Adam Sandler and Téa Leoni. The result is a wittily perceptive collision of cultures and values, and a refreshingly honest look at such life-altering commitments as marriage, parenting and devotion to family.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

OPENS MARCH 9 EXCLUSIVELY AT
AYALA CINEMAS

Every family has a hero.

From the writer / director of TERMS OF ENDEARMENT and BROADCAST NEWS and the director of AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Spanglish

A comedy with a language all its own

Get 15% OFF from
MEN'S WORLD

for every purchase of two (2)
CONSTANTINE movie tickets.

A stub will be given for every purchase of two (2) Constantine movie tickets. To avail of the discount simply present the stub upon purchase in Men's World located at the 2nd floor at Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Discount is valid for all items, both cash & credit purchases.

NOW SHOWING IN AYALA CINEMAS

THE WAGER BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL IS ON EARTH
KEANU REEVES
CONSTANTINE

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 CONSTANTINE • THX
2 SON OF THE MASK 2
3 INFECTION
4 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 AVIATOR
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 FOOTSTEPS
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 DREAMBOY

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 AVIATOR
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 SON OF THE MASK 2
5 INFECTION
6 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
7 CONSTANTINE

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 RAY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 INFECTION
5 CONSTANTINE
6 AVIATOR
7 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 SON OF THE MASK 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 CONSTANTINE
2 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 INFECTION
4 SON OF THE MASK 2
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 CONSTANTINE
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 AVIATOR

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 DREAMBOY
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

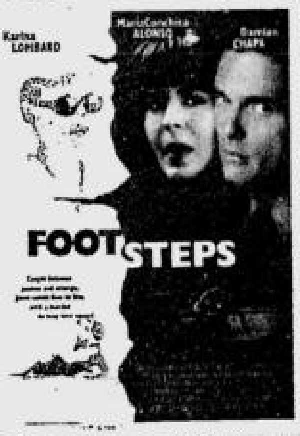
CAINTA 240-4661

1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 INFECTION
4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
February 23 - March 01

Footsteps is an intense thriller that maneuvers through a shocking maze of journalistic and legal entanglements. Jason Davis is a reporter who gets an anonymous tip that turns him into an eye witness to a judge's murder. Deputy D.A. Steve Carlen is assigned to the case. Separated from his wife Nancy, Jason meets Amber, an intriguing photographer. There is instant heat between them. As Jason gets increasingly violent death threats, he realizes the [illegible] killer is after him. He turns up clues that connect both Amber and [illegible] to the murdered judge. In the white-knuckle climax, Jason's only hope is to catch the killer...who could be his lover.

Subject for MTRCB Rating



STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 CONSTANTINE
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 RACING STRIPES
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 MADHOUSE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 CONSTANTINE
4 INFECTION
5 RACING STRIPES

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 SON OF THE MASK 2
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (046) 961-5270

1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 RAY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE
5 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
6 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 CONSTANTINE
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 RACING STRIPES
5 SHALL WE DANCE
6 ALFIE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 CONSTANTINE
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 DREAMBOY

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Cinema
review s

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR
fice
Bish
pin
ly a
its
ligh
(Cin
T
ters
sch
oth
give
the
for judicious and informed
We get the Cinema revie
appreciate the service th
films' plots and productio
movie on point of moral an
The technical rankings g
erage, average, below av
moral assessment runs fro
acceptable, disturbing, to a
Last week, the films as
Phantom of the Opera" a
Some of the clarifying poin
For "Alfie"—"The film s
sence of charity, in philand
sage of this cautionary tal
Alfie himself: You can have
no peace of mind, you have
For "Phantom"—"The n
message home: The huma
tremely wounded, always f
er of true love and forgiven
And for "Let the L
nakababahalang gawi ang
dapat ipaliwanag upang
bataang manonood: gaya n
ingkuwente sa pag-aaral. p
na hilig sa porma, at pagkut
ralita nito."
If you want to avail of C
fax) (632) 527-1925 o
hoo.com.

Seminar sked

AND, if you're interested i
ing skills, you may want to
Film Review and Classifica
26 and March 5 at the Off
pound, Gen. Luna Street,
ule of activities:
Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m., orie
en/Cinema structure. 8:45
the Filmmaking Industry
"Film, Its Impact, Impor
(NUT). 10:30 a.m., "Moral
Rating and Reviewing," b
"Theories and Perspective
Consolata Manding, FSP.
and Sensitivity," by **Sr. Con**
Feb. 26 8:35 a.m., "Fi
Idea," by **Bro. Clifford S**
and Grammar," by **Bro. Cli**
EMA Film Assessment Pro
p.m., "Moral Assessment."
p.m., "Practicum on Applic
Rating," by **Fr. Mario Sobr**
March 5, 9 a.m., Recap
Co Chua. 9:30 a.m., film v
cation of Technical Aspects
film viewing. 2:15 p.m., Pr
ond Film, by **Sr. Consolata**
sions and Concluding Inst
Rotea.
The promotion of inform
responsible viewing is an
portant cause, so be a pa
it!

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Feb. 24 at 10:15 a
"City by the Sea." 10:20 p
"Harry Potter and the Cham
of Secrets." Feb. 25 at 1
p.m., "Lost in Translati
3:40 p.m., "The Mirror
Two Faces." 8:45 p.m.,
Lord of the Rings: The Re
of the King."
On Cinemax, Feb. 24
a.m., "Dolores Claibo
8:45 a.m., "For Whom the
Tolls." Feb. 25 at 3:30
"Splendor in the Grass
p.m., "Hollywood Conf
tial."

'Five Children and It'

F. NESBIT's timeless cla
"Five Children and It,"
bines magic with the ever
trials of childhood, and ha
tranced readers for more
100 years. Now a motion
ture, it tells the story o
children whose parents
away at war. They are se
live with their uncle in a d
dated mansion by the sea.
There they encounte
strange household tha
cludes a crazy houseke
and a small boy with a la
tory in the basement—a
scientist in the making!
While exploring, the
dren find a secret passag
der the house that takes
to a strange beach. They
dentally dig up an 8,000-
old sand fairy, the cra
creature they're ever en
tered. The creature, nam
grants them a wish a day
ing until sunset. Trouble
derives great satisfacti
misinterpreting wishes
cause maximum devastat

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

sets film
eminar

SOME years now, the Of-
on Women of the Catholic
op Conference of the Philip-
s has been providing week-
sessments of new films by
Catholic Initiative for En-
ened Movie Appreciation
ema).
e group's review newslet-
are sent to parishes,
ols, media outlets and
r groups nationwide, to
moviegoers, especially
outh, a dependable guide
ilm viewing.
ws on a regular basis, and
y provide. They give the
n credits, and rate every
technical worth.
from excellent, above av-
erage, to poor, while the
m exemplary, wholesome,
bhorrent.
essed were "Alfie," "The
nd "Let the Love Begin."
s made:
ows the evil, the total ab-
ring ... The ultimate mes-
is spoken by a remorseful
everything, but if you have
nothing."
ovie brings an important
heart, no matter how ex-
inds healing with the pow-
ss."
ve Begin"—*"May ilang*
pinapakita sa pelikula na
indi tularan ng mga ka-
bandalismo, pagiging del-
agkakalat sa paligid, labis
va sa tao dahil sa pagkama-

inema's service, call (tele-
email: cinema_ow@ya-

honing your own review-
join Cinema's Seminar on
ion, to be held on Feb. 25,
ce on Women, CBCP com-
ntramuros, Manila. Sched-

itation on Office on Wom-
a.m., talk on "The State of
Today (NUT). 9:30 a.m.,
tance and Development"
Principles in Filmmaking,
Paul Dumol. 1:30 p.m.,
in Film Analysis," by **Sr.**
:30 p.m., "Film Sensibility
solata.
m Genre and Its Central
rita. 10 a.m., "Language
ford. 1:30 p.m., "The CIN-
ess," by **Joyce Laig.** 2:30
3 p.m., film viewing. 4:30
tion of Moral Principles in
juanite, SSP.
f two days' talks, by **Eddy**
iewing. 10:45 a.m., Appli-
by Joyce Laig. 1:30 p.m.,
cticum/ Workshop on Sec-
3:30 p.m., Plenary Discus-
uctions, by **Dr. Zenaida V.**

ed,
im-
of.

m.,
m.,
ber
:30
Has-
The
urn

t 6
e."
Bell
m.,
9-
en-

sic,
om-
day
en-
han
pic-
five
are
to
pi-

a
in-
per
ra-
evil

hil-
un-
nem-
eci-
ear-
nest
um-
dt;
ast
s lo
in-
to-
n!

DID YOU KNOW...

BERKELEY, California—"Sideways," the movie about a road trip and a whole lot of wine, may be sending pinot noir sales upward.

The relatively obscure red wine beloved by the movie's snobby but sweet character Miles, has been experiencing a gentle upswing in popularity for some years. But the numbers jumped sharply after "Sideways" opened last fall, according to supermarket, drug and liquor store sales data from AC-Nielsen.

The movie, up for five Academy Awards, is also being credited with boosting tourism to the Central Coast.

At the San Francisco Wine Trading Co., Gary Marcaletti said it's not hard to spot "Sideways" customers. "They come in, talk about the movie, and say, what's going on with the pinot noir?" *AP*

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For Inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 LEMONY SNICKET'S: (Series of Unfortunate Events) 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13
2 THE AVIATOR 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00 PG-13
3 CONSTANTINE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
4 MASK 2: SON OF THE MASK PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MANILA'S MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE
A FILM YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AGAIN AND AGAIN
3 ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS
ART DIRECTION • CINEMATOGRAPHY • ORIGINAL SONG
3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • BEST ACTRESS • BEST ORIGINAL SONG
2ND WEEK
Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic tale of terror, mystery and romance, seen by over 8 million people worldwide, comes to the big screen for the first time.
The PHANTOM of the OPERA

the national commission for culture & the arts-cinema values reorientation program
in cooperation with mowelfund film institute present
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2005
Feb 23 - 27 sm megamall cinema 6

TRIBUTE TO
FERNANDO POE, JR.
MANUEL DE LEON

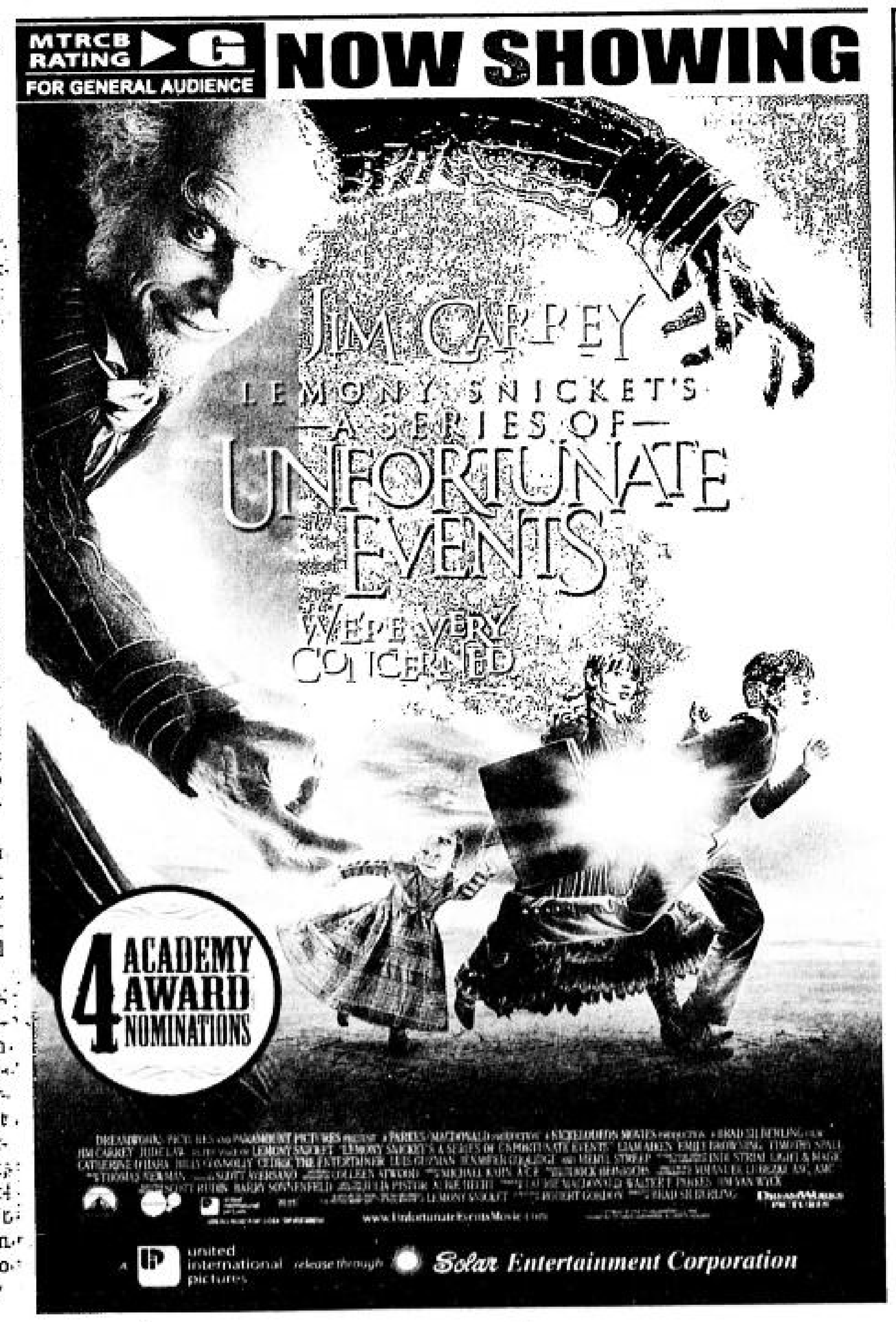
Premiere: Feb 24/Thu/6pm
BUNSO
Documentary by Ditsi Carolino

Premiere: Feb 25/Fri/6pm
DILIMAN
Digital Feature by Mes de Guzman

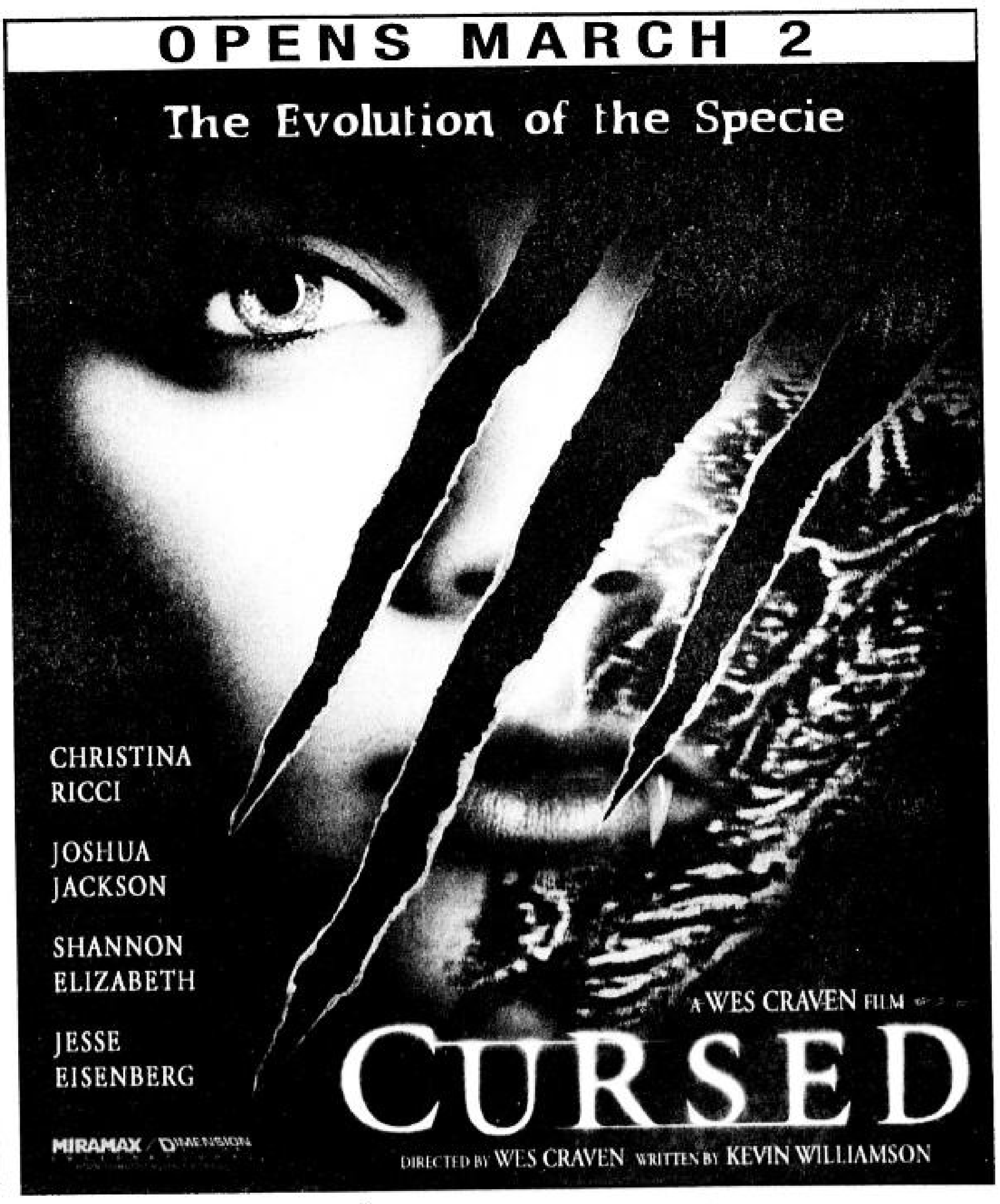
time	[illegible]	24 thu	[illegible]	26 sat	[illegible]
10 am - 12:30 pm	MAGNIFICO by Maryo J. de los Reyes	MAGNIFICO by Maryo J. de los Reyes	MAGNIFICO by Maryo J. de los Reyes	MAGNIFICO by Maryo J. de los Reyes	MAGNIFICO by Maryo J. de los Reyes
12:30 pm - 3 pm	BRITISH ANIMATION 1 for children	VALUES-ORIENTED SHORT FILMS	VALUES ORIENTED SHORT FILMS	BRITISH ANIMATION 1 for children	REGIONAL FILM PROGRAM
		TRIBUTE TO FERNANDO POE, JR.			
3 pm - 5:30 pm		SANTIAGO	WALLS OF HELL	PERLAS NG SILANGAN	ANAK NG BULKAN
5 pm - 6 pm	OPENING NIGHT PROGRAM		INDIE WEEKEND		
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	AGUILA	BUNSO by Ditsi Carolino	DILIMAN by Mes de Guzman	NEW SHORT FILMS	TO BE ANNOUNCED
9:30 pm - 11 pm		BADJAO	ROMEO MUST ROCK	BRITISH ANIMATION 2 for adults	EC2 LUV

FOR INFORMATION PLS CALL MFI 410 4567 / 410 4545

OPENS MARCH 2
7 ACADEMY AWARDS® NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE
★ BEST DIRECTOR ★ BEST ACTOR ★ BEST ACTRESS ★
★ BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR ★ BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY ★ BEST FILM EDITING ★
2 GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER
BEST DIRECTOR ★ BEST ACTRESS
FACE YOUR FEAR
FIGHT TO WIN
CLINT EASTWOOD
HILARY SWANK
MORGAN FREEMAN
MILLION DOLLAR BABY



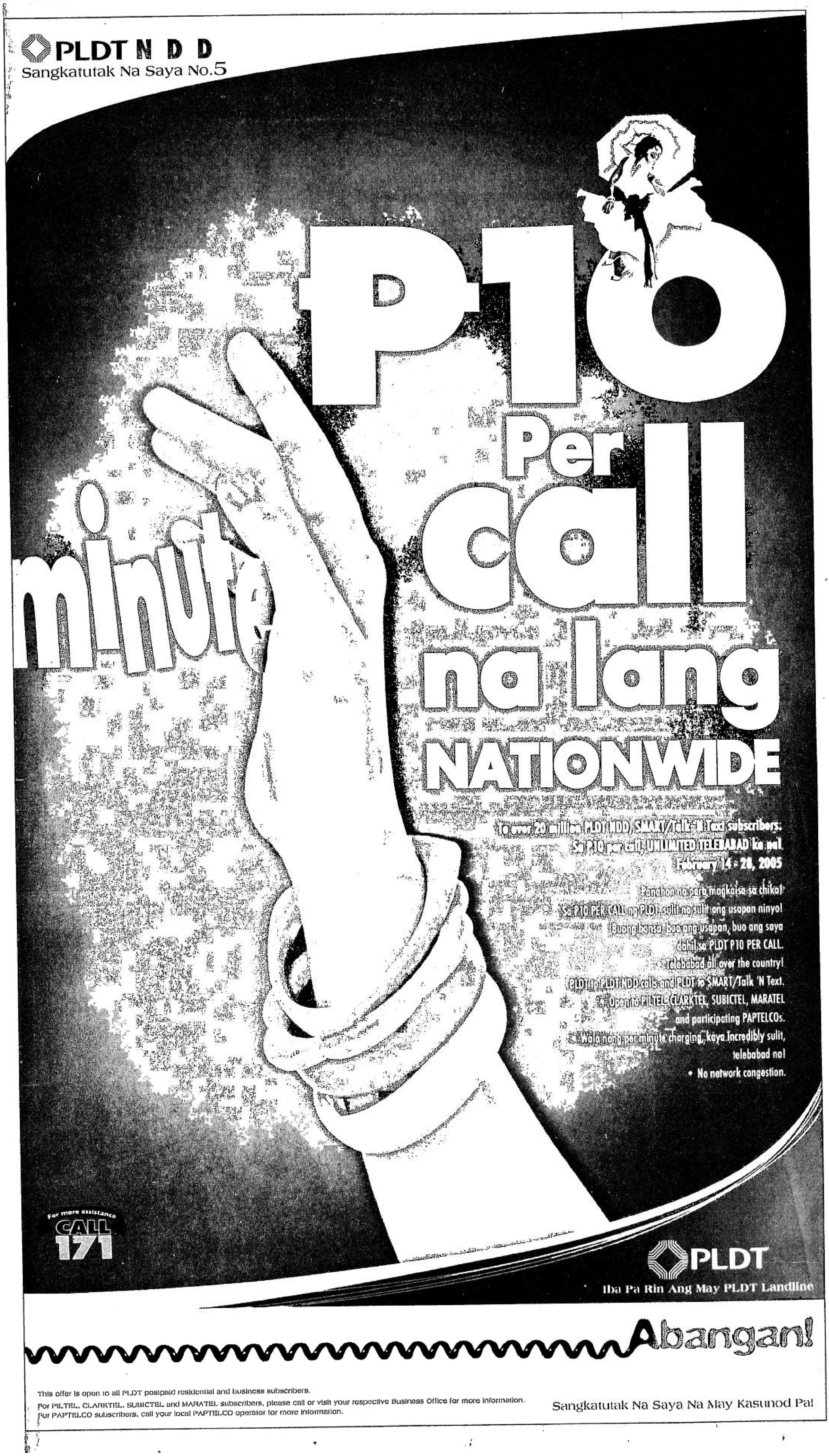
MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
NOW SHOWING
JIM CARREY
LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
WE'RE VERY CONCERNED
4 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
www.UnfortunateEventsMovie.com
A united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation



OPENS MARCH 2
The Evolution of the Specie
CHRISTINA RICCI
JOSHUA JACKSON
SHANNON ELIZABETH
JESSE EISENBERG
A WES CRAVEN FILM
CURSED
DIRECTED BY WES CRAVEN WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMSON
MIRAMAX / DIMENSION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PLDT NDD
Sangkatutak Na Saya No.5



P10 Per call na lang NATIONWIDE

To over 20 million PLDT NDD, SMART/Talk 'N Text subscribers.
Sa P10 per call, UNLIMITED TELEBABAD ka pa!
February 14 - 28, 2005

Panahon na para magkaisa sa chika!
Sa P10 PER CALL ng PLDT, sulit na sulit ang usapan ninyo!
Buong bansa, buo ang usapan, buo ang saya
dahil sa PLDT P10 PER CALL.

- Telebabad all over the country!
PLDT to PLDT NDD calls and PLDT to SMART/Talk 'N Text.
- Open to PILTEL, CLARKTEL, SUBICTEL, MARATEL and participating PAPTELCOs.
- Wala nang per minute charging, kaya Incredibly sulit, telebabad na!
- No network congestion.

For more assistance
CALL 171

PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline

Abangan!

This offer is open to all PLDT postpaid residential and business subscribers.
For PILTEL, CLARKTEL, SUBICTEL and MARATEL subscribers, please call or visit your respective Business Office for more information.
For PAPTELCO subscribers, call your local PAPTELCO operator for more information.

Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

DELL
> Expandable Performance
> Incredible Storage Capacity
> Simple Manageability
PowerEdge 2800
AMTI Accent Micro Technologies, Inc.
Suite 1408, 14/F Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel. #: 636-3563 Fax #: 636-3564

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 24, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BUMILI NG PETRON ULTRON
REV-X AT I-TEXT
PETRON
6B23888A/
Al Dy/
1 Dalia St.
Cubao, Q.C.

Gov't seen allowing dilution of SMC stake

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT will no longer participate in the coming stock rights offering of San Miguel Corp. and just allow its stake in the food and beverage giant to be diluted by 10 percent, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said yesterday.

"We don't see any urgency for that," Purisima told reporters when asked about a legislator's suggestion that the government should take part in the company's capital-raising exercise and prevent a dilution of its San Miguel shareholdings.

Besides, he said the government did not have the money to purchase more shares just to keep its stake in San Miguel.

Earlier estimates said the government would have to spend about P8.5 billion if it wanted to retain its 41-percent interest in San Miguel.

Purisima admitted that although non-participation in the rights offer would lead to a dilution, this would not have much effect because the state would still own a third of the beer-based conglomerate and still have a say in the company's decision-making.

Of the government's 41-percent stake in San Miguel, 27 percent is held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, with the remaining 14 percent held by the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

Earlier, presidential economic adviser Rep. Joey Salceda said the government should participate in the stock rights offer, scheduled next month, to protect the government's stake. He said that with the intention to eventually sell the government-owned shares in San Miguel, it was necessary that this stake was protected to keep it attractive to potential buyers.

PURISIMA

San Miguel plans to issue one new share for every 10 currently held at a price equivalent to a 5-percent discount to the average trading price of the shares from Jan. 31 to Feb. 25.

In order to ensure that their stake is not diluted in a rights issue, existing shareholders have to take up the offer. If they do not, their holding is effectively reduced, in this case by 10 percent.

Proceeds from the rights issue would be used to fund the company's acquisitions and expansion projects.

Purisima's comments appeared to contradict earlier statements expressing an interest in participating by the Government Service Insurance System, which holds a 6.6-percent stake in San Miguel.

San Miguel's "A" shares, limited to local investors, yesterday closed unchanged at P57, while its "B" shares, available to foreign investors, fell 50 centavos at P79.50.

(See related story on Page B3)

DOF to strengthen privatization program

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is putting up a team that will strengthen the government's privatization program, saying it will make the selling of state assets one of the key strategies to inject health into the country's ailing fiscal sector.

Newly appointed Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the objective of the DOF would be to raise as much revenue as possible from the privatization of government assets, similar to what the government did during the term of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Purisima said the government's fiscal problem was brought largely by its scant revenue collection, noting that while revenue was equivalent to 17 percent of gross domestic product during Ramos' time in 1997, the figure dwindled over the years until it reached only 12.5 percent last year.

The new finance chief said he would bring in new people to the DOF, including one who would serve as undersecretary in charge of the privatization program. He said he would name the soon-to-be appointed finance undersecretary in a few days, and that he would be leading the members of a new privatization team.

"Privatization is important because the government needs liquidity. If we look at the success of the Ramos administration in terms of revenue generation, a large part of it was due to privatization," Purisima said in an interview after the turnover ceremonies for new Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina at the Bureau of Customs.

The finance chief said there were huge potential revenues from privatization because the government still had a lot of assets that it could sell. The government has a 41-percent share in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. (the 14-percent held by the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System, and the 27-percent government-sequestered stake managed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government).

Purisima said the privatization team would include the SMC shares in its priority agenda, together with government assets in the power sector.

"There are a lot more assets to dispose of, but I would like to give him (the new finance undersecretary) a free hand in identifying them," Purisima said.

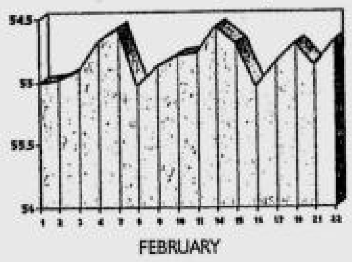
"There is a substantial portfolio of government assets that we can liquefy. If we do this, then we can create more room for infrastructure, which is one of the country's major handicaps," he said.

Michelle V. Remo

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 54.665 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 23, 2005

¥ 104.72 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 23, 2005

GOLD: $ 427.00-427.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 21, 2005

February 23, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.754375	1.000000	54.7590
Japan	Yen	0.007250	0.009611	0.5263
United Kingdom	Pound	1.441989	1.911500	104.6718
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096721	0.128213	7.0208
Switzerland	Franc	0.651166	0.863185	47.2671
Canada	Dollar	0.615917	0.816460	44.7085
Singapore	Dollar	0.463945	0.615006	33.6771
Australia	Dollar	0.599186	0.794281	43.4940
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.001102	2.652661	145.2571
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.201167	0.266667	14.6024
Brunei	Dollar	0.462523	0.613121	33.5739
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000109	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019684	0.026093	1.4288
UAE	Dirham	0.205401	0.272279	14.9097
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.325600	72.5885
Argentina	Peso	0.259102	0.343466	18.8079
Brazil	Real	0.290928	0.385654	21.1180
Denmark	Kroner	0.134433	0.178205	9.7583
India	Rupee	0.017290	0.022920	1.2551
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.198546	0.263193	14.4122
Mexico	New Peso	0.068115	0.090293	4.9444
New Zealand	Dollar	0.550398	0.729607	39.9525
Korea	Won	0.000751	0.000995	0.0545
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024245	0.032139	1.7599

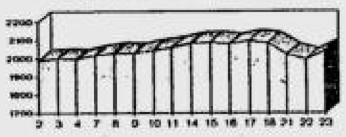
STOCK MARKET

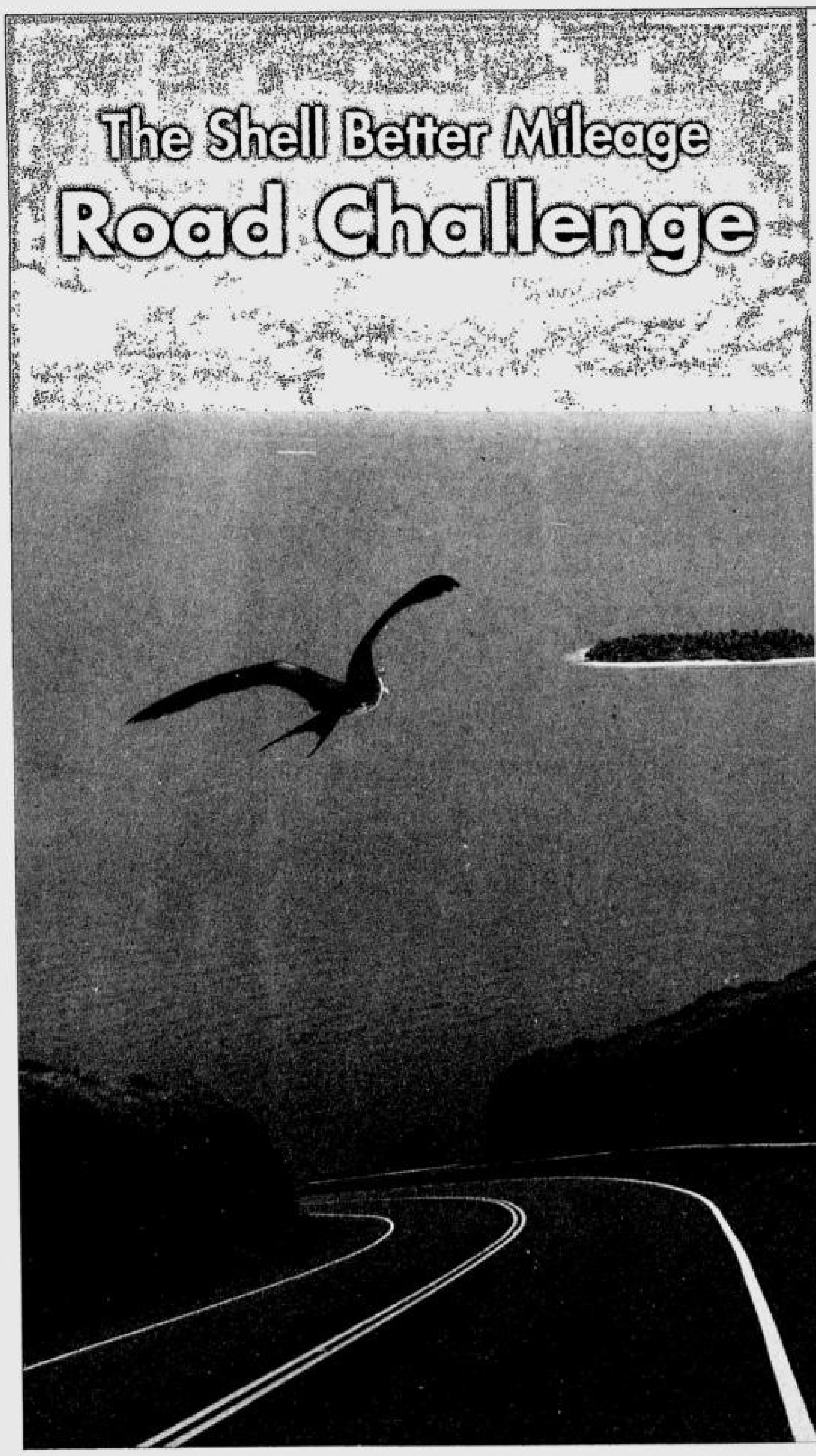
Shares close 2.54% higher

SHARE prices closed 2.54 percent higher yesterday on a sharp technical rebound to regain the key 2,000 points level with

SHARES/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX





Join the Challenge!

Call RX 93.1, 89.9 TM, NU 107.5, WAVE 89.1, 103.5 Klite, 99.5 RT, JAM 88.3, 94.7 DWLL, JOEY 92.3, CROSSOVER 105.1, Killer Bee 92.3 Cebu, Killer Bee 89.1 Davao, Y101 FM Cebu, 88.3 Energy FM Davao, 105.9 Monster FM Cebu, and 99.5 Monster FM Davao on these dates:

Manila - February 24 to 26
Cebu - March 3 to 5
Davao - March 10 to 12

Call the radio stations above and answer the Better Mileage question
to win a Shell premium item
and a chance to join the
BETTER MILEAGE ROAD CHALLENGE.
Drive your car through these fun courses.

March 6: Manila - (Shell Fort Bonifacio to Shell Tagaytay)
March 12: Cebu - (Benros Shell, Cebu City to Easy Gas Shell, Lapu-Lapu City)
March 19: Davao - (Naidas Shell, Buhangin to Ecoland Shell)

The participants registering the best mileage win!
3 winners per category:

1st place - ₱20,000 worth of gas
2nd place - ₱15,000 worth of gas
3rd place - ₱10,000 worth of gas
Consolation prizes - ₱5,000 worth of gas

2 Categories:

Category 1 - 1600 engine displacement and above
Category 2 - 1500 engine displacement and below

Isang tawag lang, malayo ang mararating sa

Shell Better Mileage Gasolines
Shell SUPER Premium
Shell SUPER Unleaded
Shell Velocity

See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0965 series of 2005.

Inter-island transports take their toll on rural dev't

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S inefficient, monopolistic inter-island transport system is hampering rural development, taking away the incentive for farmers to strive for greater productivity despite advances in agro-fisheries technology, according to a University of Asia and the Pacific study.

The study, conducted by the Transport and Logistics Center of the UA&P-based Center for Research and Communication, found that transport inefficiency led to higher prices of goods.

In turn, higher prices undermine the global competitiveness of the agri-fisheries sector as well as the country's food security.

Enrico L. Basilio of the UA&P School of Economics said prices of goods were going up also because they had to go through many channels before they reach the end-consumers.

"For instance, pechay from Quezon province change hands six or eight times," Basilio said. "The result is that the price shoots up from P4 each at the farm gate to a range of between P18 and P25 when it reaches the end-consumer—an increase of between 350 percent and 525 percent."

Basilio said that for the farmers, a multi-layered marketing system—the products going through several levels of traders, distributors and dealers—meant smaller profits.

"If the marketing structure is streamlined, pechay can fetch P11 apiece at the farm gate and can be sold to the end-consumer at P16 each—an increase of only 45 percent," he said.

The academic explained that much of the high transport cost could be traced to the cost of cargo handling, inefficient port operations and a highly centralized port administration that bars competition among cargo handlers within a port and among different ports.

"(The current port policy) is flawed in that the regulator (the Philippine Ports Authority) benefits from its regulation—it owns ports and earns from operating them," Basilio said. "Also, there is no public bidding in the renewal of expired and expiring cargo handling contracts."

Basilio said that based on the study, he recommended the promotion of roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) shipping service that would substantially reduce cargo handling, costs, and make loading and unloading of goods efficient.

He also encouraged the establishment of private commercial ports that would support the ro-ro system. He said of the 400 private ports in the country, only 30 are operating commercially.

Europe firm acquires 30% of Coastal Road subsidiary

JAN DE Nul (JDN), one of the biggest dredging companies in Europe, will acquire 30 percent of UEM-MARA Phils. Corp. (UMPC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Coastal Road Corp.

The Coastal Road Corp. has announced the signing of a joint venture agreement between JDN and UMPC, closing the $15-million deal.

JDN has completed many dredging projects in the Philippines. It is also one of the largest construction companies in Belgium, specializing in the construction of roads, expressways and bridges.

The joint venture was signed by Jennifer M. Eñano-Bote, general manager of UMPC and Stefan Stefan Baeyens, country manager for Philippine operations, Gary Vandewalle, foreign department director and Luc Imbrechts, legal counsel.

UMPC is a joint venture partner of the Public Estates Authority. The equity and construction agreement was signed in Belgium last Feb. 10.

Leaky in love

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

I THINK I know one big secret of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, on how it implements its new rules on business.

Well, okay, actually, how the lucky SEC rams its new rules down the throat of business!

From what I gathered on the alleged "problem" of the 30-year-old College Assurance Plan, or CAP, the SEC's secret is that it leaks its secrets to media.

About three years ago, without much ado, thank you, the leaky SEC fell in love with insurance companies, and so it imposed new rules on their stiffest competitors—pre-need companies like CAP.

In a way, the SEC wanted CAP to follow the rules for life insurance companies which, due to accidents, must set aside money for every policy they sell. Bright!

Our genius SEC, in other words, thought that a one-year old holder of a CAP college plan could, all of sudden, go to medical school.

* * *

THAT was when the alleged "problem" of CAP actually started—when the genius SEC imposed the bright rules.

Look, Mamonluk, CAP was a company with some P8.7 billion in trust funds deposited in various banks. And as of 2003, its retained earnings already amounted to P7 billion. How was it in trouble? Well, it was in trouble with the SEC rules.

Under the rules, a new college plan sold by the CAP was automatically counted as a "liability," for which CAP must set aside a big portion of the plan's value.

The rules used the so-called ARL, or "actuarial reserve liability." It turned out that the ARL was the brainchild of a group known as Agile, which even held office at the SEC building.

Now Agile got a lot of help (i.e. money) from the USAID. Whether Agile reported directly to an insurance group in New York, nobody knew then.

In reality, however, the ARL turned out to be a stupid idea. Its prediction of CAP's liabilities for 2004, for instance, was off by almost 50 percent.

As I have been saying, if the SEC was the doctor, and it made that kind of mistake, the patient would have been long dead, and smelling worse than my feet.

* * *

TODAY, anyway, the problem of CAP has turned into one of destroyed reputation. The public thinks it is going down, if it is not already down. You know, bankrupt!

Yet, the business of pre-need companies like CAP, precisely, relies on public trust. I mean, you give them money, and in return they give you a promise. If that is not about trust, then we have a six-footer President.

But what I am saying is, the SEC did not have to slam CAP in media all this time.

The genius SEC, you see, leaked information to media about the alleged "problem" of CAP, saying that the company, for instance, had "capital deficiency."

Deficiency? Based on what? Well, as it turned out, based on the way-off wrong stupid ARL that was devised by Agile with the help of some US groups.

The genius SEC leaked information to media, without saying that CAP was precisely contesting the rules. There was an ongoing debate between the SEC and CAP—running for three years now—about the ARL.

CAP still tried to follow the SEC rules, and what's more, knowing its public reputation was at stake, it kept quiet in media. The SEC leaked everything.

* * *

AND so, what kind of an irresponsible regulator do we have in the pre-need industry?

In banking, in comparison, knowing that anything it says about any bank can start a "run," the Bangko Sentral is always careful about sharing information to media.

The genius SEC, however, did the leaking itself. The SEC used the media to impose its questionable agenda on a company that it was supposed to supervise—not murder.

Was there a plan somewhere?

Now, aside from the SEC's leaking info to hurt the company, certain senators even rode on the publicity to tell the public to stop paying for their CAP education plans.

"Letters To The Editor" came out in different newspapers, which all said the same things, basically noting that the senator only wanted CAP to solve its alleged "financial problem."

Now, I happen to know personally all the tricks in the newspapering racket, such as those "letters to the editor." They could also be orchestrated.

If the senators wanted CAP to solve its problem, so that it can go on serving its hundreds of thousands of planholders, why then did they encourage the public to stop paying for their plan?

Simple, my dear pimple, and it's because they wanted CAP to go down by creating a "run." They wanted to make the alleged "problem" of CAP, as imagined by the SEC (with the help of Agile), into a reality.

I just don't know how much is the "success fee" from New York.

* * *

SOME 50 doctors and dentists who have clinics at the Medico building near the former site of Medical City hospital at the Ortigas Center, are crying "foul."

It seems that the management of the building, which is owned by a corporation, which in turn has the same doctors and dentists as stockholders, cut the utilities—you know, electricity, water and telephone.

Thus, senior citizens who want to see their doctors at the building must go up flights upon flights of stairs to the 5th floor.

Old people are mostly weak. And you know why old weak people go to the doctors, right? They are sick.

That's the situation at the Medico building.

* * *

IT seems that the management of the building turned off all utilities, because they wanted to close down the building.

Well, some of the owners of Medico building are also the stockholders of a different medical building called MATI, or Medical Towers Inc.

MATI is the new building for doctors and dentists located near the brand new Medical City hospital at the Meralco compound on Ortigas avenue.

Some occupants of Medico transferred to MATI. Others, such as old retiring dentists, did not want to move to the new building. A room there would cost P4 million.

To force the remaining occupants of Medico to move to Mati, and cough off P4 million each, the "management" turned off the utilities.

And these are doctors? And all along, I thought that doctors are supposed to heal sick people to ease their sufferings. Well, I am not perfect.

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET 10% DOWNPAYMENT 11% INTEREST 10 YEARS TO PAY

VALENTINE AUCTION FEBRUARY 26, 2005 • 9:00 A.M. UCPB BLDG., MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY

OFFICE UNITS

76.57sqm	P 2,439,520.20
83.34sqm	P 2,707,716.60
95.83sqm	P 3,053,143.80
103.27sqm	P 3,364,536.60
111.95sqm	P 3,828,690.00
112.44sqm	P 3,855,567.60
13.37sqm	P 4,081,320.00
137.66sqm	P 4,608,856.80
142.18sqm	P 5,398,218.00
157.44sqm	P 6,018,120.00
159.06sqm	P 5,711,844.60
167.17sqm	P 5,951,232.00

WHOLE FLOOR

924.45sqm	P 34,278,606.00
924.46sqm	P 32,614,948.80
924.72sqm	P 34,288,617.60

HALF FLOOR

406.28sqm	P 16,564,035.60
409.94sqm	P 16,713,253.80

ATLANTA CENTER
Annapolis, Greenhills, San Juan

OFFICE & RSDL UNITS

COMMERCIAL UNITS

17.40sqm	P 454,053.00
21.00sqm	P 571,200.00
22.25sqm	P 605,200.00
26.85sqm	P 730,320.00
32.56sqm	P 885,632.00
34.29sqm	P 894,797.00
45.63sqm	P 1,132,536.00
46.60sqm	P 1,156,612.00
58.10sqm	P 1,501,304.00
103.48sqm	P 2,568,373.00

RESIDENTIAL UNITS

36.36sqm	P 1,137,340.00	66.51sqm	P 2,038,919.00
36.54sqm	P 1,249,435.00	74.40sqm	P 2,105,892.00
43.20sqm	P 1,288,872.00	75.15sqm	P 2,235,712.00
62.63sqm	P 2,038,919.00	98.43sqm	P 3,053,790.00
65.00sqm	P 2,033,200.00	107.05sqm	P 2,865,996.00

PALM TOWERS
St. Paul St. San Antonio Village, Makati City

FAIRWAY LOTS

787sqm	P 2,494,341.83	1,387sqm	P 4,396,000.16
870sqm	P 2,757,404.57	1,567sqm	P 4,966,497.65
1,056sqm	P 3,346,918.65	1,662sqm	P 5,267,593.56
1,133sqm	P 3,590,964.80	1,830sqm	P 5,800,057.89
1,245sqm	P 3,945,941.02	2,012sqm	P 6,376,894.24

MOUNT MALARAYAT
RESIDENTIAL ESTATES
LIPA, BATANGAS

LAS PIÑAS CITY

UCPB - 1001 COMML LOT
L.A. 1,932sqm
Brgy. Zapote Las Pinas City
Minimum Bid Price P 12,310,500.00

UCPB - 1002 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 280sqm, F.A. 303.12sqm
Pulasaps Road Pilar Village
Minimum Bid Price P 2,458,500.00

UCPB - 1003 CONDO UNIT
F.A. 40.48sqm
Coastal Plaza Condo
Minimum Bid Price P 480,000.00

CALOOCAN CITY

UCPB - 1005 RSDL LOT
L.A. 240sqm
Coaster St. Bretonville Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 387,000.00

UCPB - 1006 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200sqm, F.A 174sqm
Vista Verde North Ph. I F
Minimum Bid Price P 1,044,000.00

MANILA

UCPB - 1007 COMML LOT
L.A. 832.7sqm
No 2244 Taft Avenue, Malate
Minimum Bid Price P 26,451,300.00

MAKATI CITY

UCPB - 1011 RSDL LOT W/ OLD HOUSE
L.A. 746sqm
10 Paseo De Roxas Ext. Bel-Air
Minimum Bid Price P 23,500,500.00

MANDALUYONG CITY

UCPB - 1015 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 312sqm w/ 7-STOREY
No 274 Sta. Lucia St. Plainview
Minimum Bid Price P 4,035,000.00

UCPB - 1017 CONDO UNIT
F.A. 140.9sqm
Court Fekedad Wack-wack Rd
Minimum Bid Price P 4,350,000.00

MARIKINA

UCPB - 1018 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 829sqm
Twin River I Bo. Nangka
Minimum Bid Price P 5,200,000.00

PASAY CITY

UCPB - 1019 PENTHOUSE
F.A. 290sqm
Unit 1502 15th Floor Marbella 1
Minimum Bid Price P 4,954,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

UCPB - 1021 CONDO UNIT
F.A. 144.7sqm w/ PARKING
907 9th flr. Chateau de Baie Condo
Minimum Bid Price P 3,421,250.00

UCPB - 1022 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 417sqm, F.A 677.50sqm
Bethesda St. Multinational Village
Minimum Bid Price P 6,885,000.00

UCPB - 1023 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 583sqm
Jose Abad Santos Bayview Village
Minimum Bid Price P 6,774,500.00

UCPB - 1024 RSDL LOT
L.A. 90sqm w/ IMPRVT
L. Gabriel Street
Minimum Bid Price P 1,576,000.00

PASIG CITY

UCPB - 1025 RSDL LOT
L.A. 224sqm
Bagong Anyo St., Rosario 4 Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 760,000.00

UCPB - 1025 A CONDO UNIT
F.A. 224.14sqm
Park Chateau Garnet & Sapphire
Minimum Bid Price P 5,355,000.00

QUEZON CITY

UCPB - 1147 TOWN HOUSE
L.A. 341.2sqm
10th St. New Manila
Minimum Bid Price P 10,101,000.00

UCPB - 1026 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 586sqm
44 Zaragosa St. Araneta Village
Minimum Bid Price P 8,961,500.00

UCPB - 1028 RSDL W/ IMPRVT
L.A. 90sqm
#17-A Camiling St. NIA Subd.
Minimum Bid Price P 708,250.00

UCPB - 1029 RSLD BLDG
L.A. 102sqm
304 P. Rivera St. Brgy. Sangandaan
Minimum Bid Price P 1,602,000.00

UCPB - 1030 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 281sqm
Bighani cor Flores de Mayo St.
Minimum Bid Price P 2,762,500.00

UCPB - 1031 CONDO UNIT
F.A. 120.17sqm w/ PARKING
707 Jade Place Condo, Visayas Ave
Minimum Bid Price P 2,853,000.00

UCPB - 1033 CONDO UNIT
F.A. 62.90sqm
Adelina 2 Condominium Columbia
Minimum Bid Price P 1,377,000.00

UCPB - 1034 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 103sqm
Goodwill Home Ph 2 Bagbag Nov
Minimum Bid Price P 2,376,000.00

UCPB - 1036 2 DOOR APARTMNT
L.A. 155sqm
Metrogreen Village, Bagbag, Nov.
Minimum Bid Price P 3,122,344.00

UCPB - 1037 RSDL UNIT
F.A. 63sqm
309 2nd flr Prince Jun Condo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,260,000.00

UCPB - 1038 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,139sqm
G. Meadows Ave. Green Meadow
Minimum Bid Price P 45,883,000.00

UCPB - 1040 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 400sqm
Maamo St., Sikatuna Vil. Diliman
Minimum Bid Price P 4,800,000.00

UCPB - 1041 TOWN HOUSE
F.A. 60sqm
Trafalgar Manor, Esteban Abada St.
Minimum Bid Price P 3,325,000.00

GREENHILLS SAN JUAN

UCPB - 1045 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 920sqm
Madison & Polk St. North Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price P 30,329,000.00

UCPB - 1046 CONDO UNIT
F.A. 100 sqm
One Beverly Place Condo, Annapolis
Minimum Bid Price P 8,490,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

UCPB - 1047 RSDL LOT
L.A. 264sqm w/ IMPRVT
700 Mango Grove Subd., Coloong 2
Minimum Bid Price P 272,000.00

UCPB - 1048 RSDL LOT
L.A. 193sqm w/ IMPRVT
14 Little Tagaytay St., Polo
Minimum Bid Price P 654,500.00

ANTIPOLO

UCPB - 1049 RSDL LOT
L.A. 834sqm
Sellurd St. Town & Country Estates
Minimum Bid Price P 2,604,500.00

UCPB - 1050 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 185sqm, F.A. 104sqm
Cuesta Verde Exec. Village,
Minimum Bid Price P 1,002,000.00

UCPB - 1053 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,151sqm
Town & Country Estates
Minimum Bid Price P 3,717,900.00

UCPB - 1054 A RSDL LOT
L.A. 302sqm
Cherry St. Town & Country Estates
Minimum Bid Price P 1,058,400.00

UCPB 1056- RSDL LOT
L.A. 304sqm
Cottonwoods Heights
Minimum Bid Price P 981,920.00

UCPB 1057 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 100sqm
Hills of Maia Alta
Minimum Bid Price: P 605,250.00

UCPB - 1061 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,004sqm
Brgy. Rd. Brgy. May-Iba Teresa
Minimum Bid Price P 1,470,500.00

CAINTA/ TAYTAY/ ANGONO

UCPB - 1062 RSDL LOT
L.A. 302sqm w/ IMPRVT
Noel Subd. Brgy. Dolores Taytay
Minimum Bid Price P 796,416.00

UCPB - 1063 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240sqm, F.A 208sqm
Williamsburg St. Richmond Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 1,701,000.00

UCPB - 1064 RSDL LOT
L.A. 408sqm
Village East III Darangan
Minimum Bid Price P 734,800.00

UCPB - 1066 RSDL LOT
L.A. 230,226sqm
Feeder Rd. Bo. Quinang Bayan
Minimum Bid Price P 10,350,000.00

UCPB - 1067 RSDL LOT
L.A 4,745sqm w/ IMPRVMNT
Condado St. Vista Verde Exec
Minimum Bid Price P 9,965,000.00

BULACAN

UCPB - 1068 RSDL LOT
L.A. 161sqm
Opal St. Villacor Vil. Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price P 2,720,000.00

UCPB - 1071 RSDL LOT
L.A. 200sqm
Ayala St. Subd Tiro Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price. P 453,200.00

UCPB - 1072 IND'S FACTORY
L.A. 22,311.49sqm F.A VARIOUS
Northwest Line Bo. Patubig
Minimum Bid Price. P 34,856,000.00

UCPB - 1149 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200sqm
Avocado St. Area F Sapang Palay
Minimum Bid Price P 360,000.00

CAVITE CITY

UCPB - 1073 CONDOTEL
F.A 182.88sqm
Southwoods Villa, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price P 4,507,892.00

UCPB - 1074 RESORT BLDG
L.A 1,238sqm w/ POOL
Villa Ramirez Subd Tabon Kawit
Minimum Bid Price P 3,771,000.00

UCPB - 1077 COMML LOT
L.A 4,090sqm
Macaria Business Cent. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 30,242,350.00

UCPB - 1077 A COMML LOT
L.A 3,324sqm
Macaria Business Cent. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 26,428,000.00

UCPB - 1078 CONDOTEL/RESORT
F.A 71sqm
Vista De Loro Heights Puerto Azul
Minimum Bid Price P 1,589,500.00

UCPB - 1080 INDSTL LOT
L.A 7,079sqm
Bo. Niog & Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price P 5,928,500.00

UCPB - 1081 RESORT HOUSE
L.A 240sqm
Punta Del Rio Resort & Country
Minimum Bid Price P 7,140,000.00

BIÑAN/ SAN PEDRO & STA ROSA

UCPB - 1086 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 1,211sqm (2-storey)
Bo. Pooc Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price P 2,803,701.00

UCPB - 1087 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 370sqm F.A 104sqm
Maharlika St. United San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price P 2,430,000.00

TAGAYTAY CITY

UCPB - 1088 CONDO UNIT
F.A 160.25sqm
#128 Leighton Garden Condo
Minimum Bid Price P 3,042,000.00

UCPB - 1090 VACANT LOT
L.A 11,572sqm
Bo. Maharlika East Tagaytay
Minimum Bid Price P 17,050,000.00

BATANGAS CITY

UCPB - 1105 POULTRY & PIGGERY
L.A 37,117sqm w/ HOUSE
National Road Bo. Tangob
Minimum Bid Price P 3,852,200.00

UCPB - 1108 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 2,935sqm
Lod-lod Road, Purok 6, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 4,000,500.00

UCPB - 1109 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 880sqm
Bo. Rd. Tiambo Taysan
Minimum Bid Price P 2,010,000.00

UCPB - 1110 COMML LOT
L.A 1,034sqm
Kalipulako St., Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 27,860,000.00

UCPB - 1112 COMML LOT
L.A 322sqm
Kalipulako St., Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price. P 4,150,000.00

UCPB - 1114 COMML LOT
L.A 11,032sqm W/ IMPRVT
Nat'l Rd. Brgy. Bugtong na Pulo
Minimum Bid Price P 25,398,000.00

UCPB - 1115 RESORT
L.A 39,080sqm
Within Brgy. Balanga, Lemery
Minimum Bid Price P 17,935,000.00

UCPB - 1151 RSDL LOT
L.A 5,501sqm w/ IMPRVMT
Sakura Exec. Village Bo. Marauoy
Minimum Bid Price P 30,000,000.00

QUEZON

UCPB - 1119 INDSL LOT
L.A 8,477sqm
Bo. Isabang Mun. of Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price. P 11,385,000.00

UCPB - 1121 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 75sqm w/ WARE HOUSE
Enriquez St. Poblacion Lucena
Minimum Bid Price P 1,705,500.00

UCPB - 1123 INDSL LOT
L.A 1,108sqm W/ IMPRVT
Purok Malahimik Cotta Lucena
Minimum Bid Price P 3,322,594.00

UCPB - 1124 COMML LOT
L.A 1,508 sqm
Nat'l Road Bo. Iyam Lucena
Minimum Bid Price P 5,305,030.00

UCPB - 1125 RSDL LOT
L.A 250sqm
San Isidro Subd. Bo. Gulang-gulang
Minimum Bid Price P 588,491.00

UCPB - 1127 RSDL LOT
L.A 2,533sqm
CPG Ave. East St. Tagbilaran
Minimum Bid Price P 1,460,000.00

UCPB - 1128 RSDL LOT
L.A 2,273sqm
Teodoro Bantol St. Tagbilims
Minimum Bid Price P 1,727,600.00

UCPB - 1151 RSDL LOT
L.A 481sqm
Lucena-Dalahican Port Rd. Dumacaa
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,600.00

UCPB - 1152 COMML LOT
L.A 5,074sqm
Quezon Ave. Brgy. 8
Minimum Bid Price. P 26,467,000.00

UCPB - 1153 COMML LOT
L.A 3,798sqm
Purok Cota Lucena
Minimum Bid Price P 5,509,200.00

UCPB - 1154 COMML LOT
L.A 176sqm
Leon Guinto Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 4,161,400.00

UCPB - 1155 RSDL LOT
L.A 180sqm
Bolivia St. Bettelliving Subd Isabang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,440,000.00

UCPB - 1158 AGRI-LOT
L.A 36,409sqm
Provincial Rd Bo. Pura San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price P 4,914,000.00

TARLAC CITY

UCPB 1131 - INDSL LOT
L.A 4,3671sqm (w/ poultry house)
Bo. San Agustin Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price P 6,217,200.00

UCPB 1132 - AGRO-INDSL LOT
L.A 111,036sqm
Bo. Sapang Maragul
Minimum Bid Price P 5,582,800.00

UCPB - 1160 RSDL LOT
L.A 2,375sqm
Bo. San Isidro, Tarlac
Minimum Bid Price P 2,160,000.00

UCPB - 1161 AGRI-LOT
L.A 43,003sqm
Brgy. Baldios Mun of Sta. Ignacia
Minimum Bid Price P 2,610,000.00

PAMPANGA CITY

UCPB 1133 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A 56,589sqm
Bo. Mabiga Mabalacat
Minimum Bid Price P 7,215,097.00

UCPB - 1162 AGRO-INDTRL LOT
L.A 72,152sqm
Brgy. Sulipan Apalit, Pampanga
Minimum Bid Price P 10,574,000.00

SHOW MONEY: Php 25,000 CASH/MC PER PROPERTY • ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" • PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

AUCTION MANAGER
THE PROPERTY FORUM

TELEPHONE NOS.: (02)534-9536 or (02)534-6954 (MON - SUN, 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.)

CALL CENTER: (02)633-1988 to 90 (MON - SUN, 10:30 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.)

CELLPHONE NO.: (0927)550-6401

UCPB

www.ucpb.com

SMC STOCK RIGHTS OFFER

Sy moves to keep board seat

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MALL magnate Henry Sy will subscribe to the P18-billion to P20-billion stock rights offering of San Miguel Corp. to protect his lone board seat in the food and beverage giant.

The SM group will have to set aside about P1 billion to maintain its 6.3-percent stake in SMC, assuming that the SMC would raise at least P18 billion, analysts said.

"We have already met and discussed this (subscription to SMC shares)," sources in the company said.

SMC plans to issue new shares equivalent to 10 percent of its outstanding equity.

Sy, for his part, holds the stake in SMC through his SM Investments Corp., which is set to hold its initial public offering.

The Sy group favored the recent move by Japanese brewer Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. to hike its stake in SMC by 4.12 percentage points to 19.67 percent. With this purchase, Kirin gets closer to clinching another seat in SMC's 15-man board.

Before the transaction, Kirin held roughly 15.6 percent, equivalent to two board seats.

SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., who owns close to 20 percent of the company, has yet to disclose whether he will exercise his preemptive right, which gives him the first crack at buying additional shares.

Others in the SMC board are representatives from government agencies: the Presidential Commission on Good Government (25.5 percent), Government Service Insurance System (6.6 percent) and the Social Security System (5.3 percent).

Industry analysts expect the balance of power in the country's largest food and beverage firm to change after the rights offer. As to who will keep control of the company is still uncertain.

Shares close . . .

From page A1

ease, dealers said.

They said investors picked up bargains among stocks with strong profit and growth prospects after sentiment was boosted when the government said it had lowered this year's budget deficit target to 3.4 percent of gross domestic product amid hopes of higher revenues.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index reversed three days of losses to add 50.51 points to 2,042.78. It traded between 1,987.17 and 2,043.93.

Turnover reached 2.6 billion shares worth P1.36 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 10.59 points to 1,207.92.

Gainers beat losers 88 to 17, with 32 stocks unchanged.

"Selling was just too much in the previous days and that gave investors a window of opportunity to begin buying attractive stocks," Regina Capital Development Securities analyst Gomer Tan said.

Investor sentiment received a boost after the government said Tuesday that expected higher revenues would likely lead to a smaller budget deficit for the current fiscal year. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 23, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	11,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	27.5	30	27.5	30	860,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54.5	56	53.5	56	1,111,200
China Banking Corp.	660	680	660	680	1,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	48	47.5	48	12,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.81	0.89	0.81	0.86	11,940,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	18.75	18.75	302,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38	36.5	37	1,424,800
Philippine National Bank	31.5	32	31.5	32	56,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	26,700
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	31	31	1,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	29	28	29	22,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	280,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	265	265	265	265	10,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	56,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	139	139	139	139	100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1755	1760	1750	1760	3,160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	9,198,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	14,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	920	925	920	925	15,970
Ipeople Inc.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	56,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.0675	0.06	0.0625	108,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	280,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.45	3.55	5,832,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1360	1370	1360	1360	40,910
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	2,170,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.013	0.014	424,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.75	17.25	17.75	175,900
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26.5	26	26	292,800
Petron Corp.	3.75	3.85	3.75	3.8	1,201,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	346,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	290,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	116,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	40,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	65,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED P	RODUC	TS			
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.51	0.53	2,310,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.2	11,156,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	290,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	22,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	4	4	3.85	4	44,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	36.5	36.5	36	36.5	165,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	375,800
Swift Food Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	390,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57	92,200
San Miguel Corp. B	80	80	79.5	79.5	3,100
Universal Robina Corp.	9.4	10	9.3	9.9	67,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	1,050,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	19,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	8	7.2	8	4,546,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.57	0.65	0.57	0.64	1,680,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.3	4.55	4.3	4.5	2,052,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.043	0.04	0.042	38,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	260,000
APC Group Inc.	0.46	0.49	0.44	0.48	21,480,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	26,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	20	21.5	20	21	149,100
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.46	1.3	1.42	161,188,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.91	0.95	0.91	0.95	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	1,950,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	8,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	1,820,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.55	0.59	0.55	0.58	5,180,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.3	4,150,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.055	0.06	0.05	0.06	13,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	11,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.6	11.25	9.6	11	4,364,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	52	59	52	59	1,484,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.105	9,800,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.78	1.78	11,000
Ionics Inc.	1.7	1.76	1.66	1.76	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	92,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	156,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.64	1.76	1.64	1.76	4,846,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	290,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.6	0.56	0.6	94,490,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.4	0.41	5,380,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.39	470,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	270,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.61	680,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	40,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	1,320,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	1,690,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.64	1.7	1.62	1.68	265,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.125	7,230,000
Pryce Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	910,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.6	1.66	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.42	1.66	1.42	1.66	52,372,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.28	1.1	1.28	3,600,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.26	1.36	21,951,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	1,022,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	980,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	16.75	17.25	16.75	17.25	1,622,10
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	30
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	13,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.6	9.1	8.6	9	11,529,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	15,090,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.41	68,740,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.55	19,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.72	1.86	1.72	1.82	12,581,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	190,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	400,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.3	8,770,000
SM Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	388,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.4	3,753,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.08	1.2	1.08	1.2	326,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	170,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	66,900,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.9	485,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.4	37,630,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.41	0.42	0.39	0.41	138,380,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.02	109,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	184,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	443,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	1,295,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.42	5,256,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	45	46.5	45	45.5	364,600
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	12,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	9,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.007	0.0075	189,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	78,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	137,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.18	0.225	0.18	0.21	63,980,000

DISCLOSURES

EQUITABLE PCI Bank's board approved and confirmed the promotion of lawyer Nilo T. Divina to executive vice president effective Jan 1.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. announced the resignation of Juan B. Santos as director effective Jan. 31. He will be replaced by Ambassador Cesar B. Bautista.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. completed the auction sale of its nonperforming loans worth P2.1 billion to ADM Maculus Fund L.C.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. listed 3,400 common shares today under its executive stock option plan, bringing ESOP shares to a total of 382,209 common shares.

* * *

CROWN Equities Inc. rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting from April 26 to May 31. Record date is March 31.

* * *

CEBU Property Ventures & Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 29, 3 p.m. at City Sports Club Cebu, Cebu City.

* * *

CEBU Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 29, 10 a.m. at City Sports Club Cebu, Cebu City.

* * *

MANILA Mining Corp. said its annual stockholders' meeting was scheduled for April 18 at 10 a.m. at the Penthouse, Lepanto Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

* * *

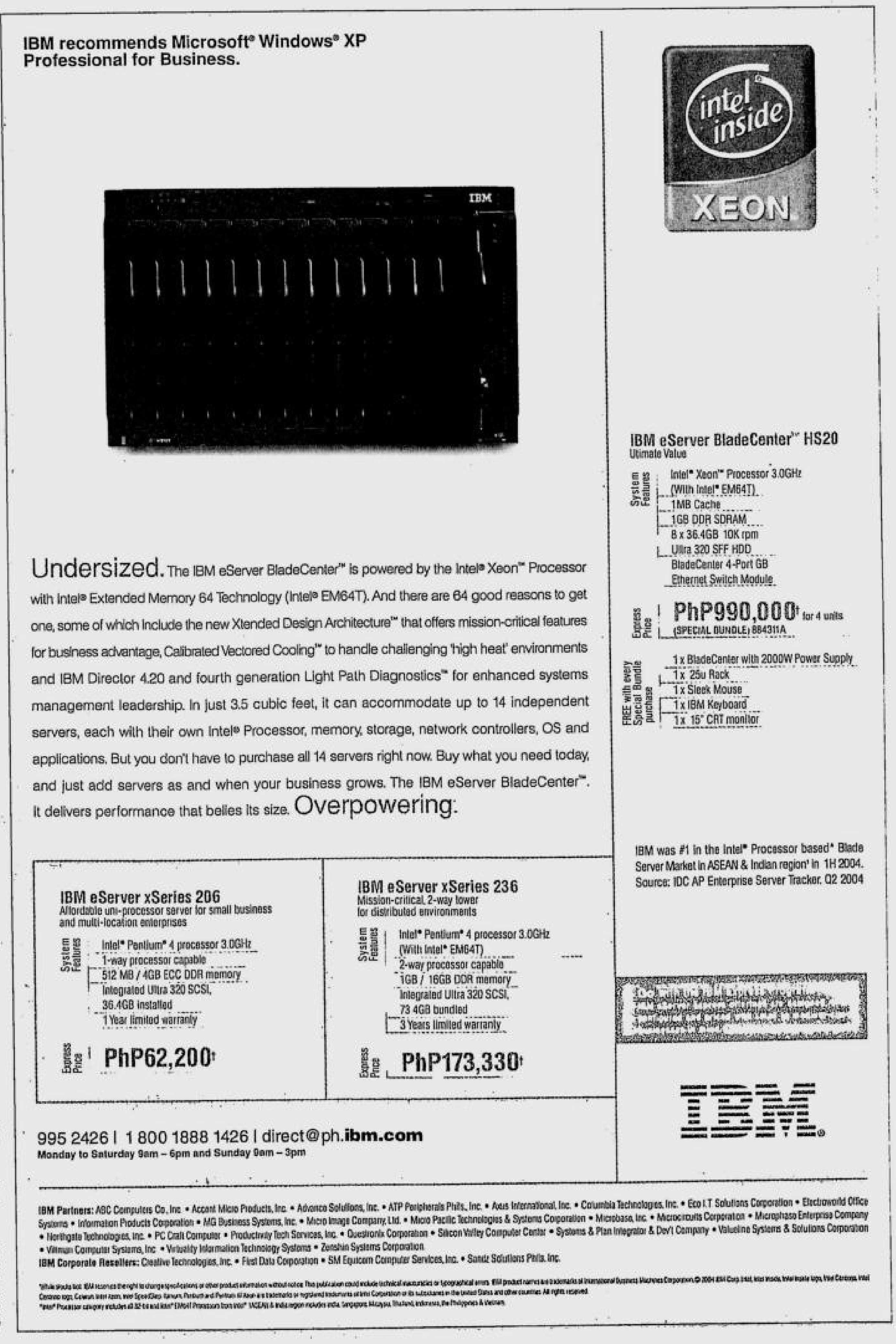
PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. stockholder approved the increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P1.2 billion to P3.42 billion. It also approved stock dividends of 120 percent, equivalent to P1.18 billion.

* * *

ABACUS Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc. board of directors approved the increase of the authorized capital stock of the company from P5 million to P3 billion. It also approved the enrollment and registration of the listed shares with Electronic Registration System of the Philippine Association of Stock Transfer Agents and Registries subject to stockholders approval.

Compiled by Chona Galang, PDI Research

olivetti
COPIA 9017 ▸ P52,500
OFX-560 Plain Paper Ink-Jet Fax ▸ P7,950
PR2 Bank Passbook Printer ▸ P55,000
FAX-LAB 210 Phone / Fax ▸ P9,950
Summa 32 EU ▸ P4,550
LINEA 198 16.5 ▸ P18,000 19.2 ▸ P20,000 25.19 ▸ P23,500
Logos 584 ▸ P6,950
OFFICE Time Recorders
CS-618 ▸ P8,950
CS-566 ▸ P12,750
CS-816 ▸ P11,550
CS-818 ▸ P11,550
De La Rue Currency Counters
OFFICE SANYO CCTV System
VIDEO MONITORS • CAMERAS SWITCHERS • TIME LAPSE MACHINES INDOOR AND OUTDOOR HOUSINGS AND OTHERS
OFFICE Calculators NIKKO
3727 PD ▸ P3,350
1414 PDN ▸ P6,950
8112 DP ▸ P3,350
EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
ELITE MACHINES, INC.
www.elitemachinesinc.com
Elite Building, 20 Araneta Ave. Ext., Quezon City
4110089 • 4110169
7328045 • 7328050 • 7328055
7328061 • 7328063 • 7328064
Rm. 301 Pacific Bldg., 460 Quintin Paredes corner Gandara Sts., Binondo, Manila
2476012 • 2474030 /31 /32 /33
Espiritu Building, 33 Gen. Maxilom Ave, Cebu City
(032) 2336711 to 16
AUTHORIZED DEALER
EURO-ASIA
G/F, LRDC Building, 22 Sen. Gil. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel Nos 8877238 / 56 / 68 / 80 / 95 / 96 & 8880698


IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.

Undersized. The IBM eServer BladeCenter™ is powered by the Intel® Xeon™ Processor with Intel® Extended Memory 64 Technology (Intel® EM64T). And there are 64 good reasons to get one, some of which include the new Xtended Design Architecture™ that offers mission-critical features for business advantage, Calibrated Vectored Cooling™ to handle challenging 'high heat' environments and IBM Director 4.20 and fourth generation Light Path Diagnostics™ for enhanced systems management leadership. In just 3.5 cubic feet, it can accommodate up to 14 independent servers, each with their own Intel® Processor, memory, storage, network controllers, OS and applications. But you don't have to purchase all 14 servers right now. Buy what you need today, and just add servers as and when your business grows. The IBM eServer BladeCenter™. It delivers performance that belies its size. Overpowering.

IBM eServer BladeCenter™ HS20
Ultimate Value
System Features: Intel® Xeon™ Processor 3.0GHz (With Intel® EM64T) • 1MB Cache • 1GB DDR SDRAM • 8 x 36.4GB 10K rpm Ultra 320 SFF HDD • BladeCenter 4-Port GB Ethernet Switch Module
Express Price: PhP990,000† for 4 units (SPECIAL BUNDLE) 884311A
FREE with every Special Bundle purchase: 1 x BladeCenter with 2000W Power Supply • 1 x 25u Rack • 1 x Sleek Mouse • 1 x IBM Keyboard • 1 x 15" CRT monitor

IBM was #1 in the Intel® Processor based* Blade Server Market in ASEAN & Indian region' in 1H 2004. Source: IDC AP Enterprise Server Tracker, Q2 2004

IBM eServer xSeries 206
Affordable uni-processor server for small business and multi-location enterprises
System Features: Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 3.0GHz • 1-way processor capable • 512 MB / 4GB ECC DDR memory • Integrated Ultra 320 SCSI, 36.4GB installed • 1 Year limited warranty
Express Price: PhP62,200†

IBM eServer xSeries 236
Mission-critical, 2-way tower for distributed environments
System Features: Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 3.0GHz (With Intel® EM64T) • 2-way processor capable • 1GB / 16GB DDR memory • Integrated Ultra 320 SCSI, 73.4GB bundled • 3 Years limited warranty
Express Price: PhP173,330†

995 2426 | 1 800 1888 1426 | direct@ph.ibm.com
Monday to Saturday 9am – 6pm and Sunday 9am – 3pm

IBM

IBM Partners: ASC Computers Co, Inc • Accent Micro Products, Inc. • Advance Solutions, Inc. • ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc. • Axis International, Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc. • Eco I.T Solutions Corporation • Electroworld Office Systems • Information Products Corporation • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd. • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corporation • Microbase, Inc. • Microcircuits Corporation • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc. • PC Craft Computer • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Silicon Valley Computer Center • Systems & Plan Integrator & Dev't Company • Valueline Systems & Solutions Corporation • Villman Computer Systems, Inc • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation
IBM Corporate Resellers: Creative Technologies, Inc. • First Data Corporation • SM Equicom Computer Services, Inc. • Sandz Solutions Phils. Inc.

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD)** is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers of Water Meters to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO NO.	UNITS	DESCRIPTION
8061	1,500	Water Meter 1/2" x 190mm body length with tail pieces and gasket, Class B Approved Budget Cost: P1,983,750.00

Interested Licensed Suppliers may obtain *Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications* at the BAC Secretariat, 2/F ZCWD Main Bldg., Pilar Street, Zamboanga City upon payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P500.00. Issuance on Bid documents will be on February 17 to March 1, 2005 only. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue any bid documents.

Suppliers must submit the following documents for eligibility check on or before March 4, 2005, to qualify for bidding:

A. **Legal Documents**
   1. A copy of the Department of Trade & Industry Certificate of Registration of Business Name or Security & Exchange Commission Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
   2. Valid and Current mayor's Permit/Municipal license for the year 2004.
   3. Taxpayer's Identification Number.
   4. Statement from Bidder that it is not "Blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the consolidated Blacklisted Report issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of IRRA-A, R.A. 9184.

B. **Technical Documents**
   1. Statement of the prospective bidder of all its on-going and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:
      a. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement include, for each contract, the following:
         The Name of the Contract;
         Date of Contract;
         Amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;
         Date of Contract Started;
         End user's acceptance, of completed; and
         Specification whether prospective bidder is a manufacturer, supplier or distributor; or
      b. Similar or not in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.

C. **Financial Documents**
   1. The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, the prospective bidder's total and current a Assets and Liabilities; as of the year 2003, or the latest BIR stamped Financial Statement.
   2. The prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC), which shall be accordance with Section 23. 11 of IRR-A, RA 9184 or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Other Documents
   1. Letter of commitment of the prospective bidder to participate in the bidding.
   2. The Prospective Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall certify under oath that each of the documents submitted is an original copy of a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.

Pre-bid Conference:	March 1, 2005 2:00 PM at the 2/F, ZCWD Main Bldg. Pilar St., Zamboanga City
Submission of Bids:	March 8, 2005 2:00 PM at the 2/F, ZCWD Main Bldg. Pilar St., Zamboanga City

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bid received and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC 1, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC 1 Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 24, 2005)

MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC) is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit Sealed Bids for the supply of Ninety Five (95) Aviation Related Security Guards.
2. To be registered, interested bidders must submit the following eligibility documents (in case of photocopied documents, the original must be presented):
   a. DTI/SEC Registration Certificate, whichever appropriate under the law
   b. Mayor's Permit, Municipal License
   c. Taxpayer's Identification Number/BIR Registration Certificate
   d. Security License
   e. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 calendar years stamped received by BIR or its duly accredited & authorized institution
   f. GEPS Registration
3. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent with Eligibility Documents will be on **March 2, 2005**. Distribution of Bid Documents will be **March 11 to 14, 2005** at the BAC's Office from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P6,000.00
   Pre-Bid Conference : **March 22, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.**
   Bid Opening : **March 31, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. (closing 9:45 A.M.)**
4. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone number 3402486 local 2050/2051
5. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect of informality, assume no obligations whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense of loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd) **VERONICA S. ORDOÑEZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb 17 & 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, National Capital Judicial Region
Branch [illegible], City of Makati

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST CO.
Plaintiff(s)
-versus- CIVIL CASE NO. [illegible]
FASHION FORESIGHTS, INC. and
MOSHE AMIR,
Defendant(s)
x-------------------------x

SUMMONS

TO: FASHION FORESIGHTS, INC., No. [illegible] KM. 14, West Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque City

MOSHE AMIR
Rm. 21 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque City

GREETINGS:

[illegible]

(Sgd.) MARY JANE P. LASAM
OIC/Legal Researcher

RECEIVED COPY OF THE SUMMONS AND PETITION:

Respondent(s) Date

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
CITY OF MAKATI, BRANCH [illegible]

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST CO.,
Plaintiff
-versus- CIVIL CASE NO. [illegible]
for SUM OF MONEY
FASHION FORESIGHTS, INC. and
MOSHE AMIR,
Defendants
x-------------------------x

COMPLAINT

[illegible]

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

[illegible]

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

[illegible]

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

[illegible]

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

[illegible]

PRAYER

[illegible]

PEREZ & CALMA LAW OFFICES
Counsel for the Plaintiff
[illegible]

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

[illegible]

(PDI – February 24 & March 3 & 10, 2005)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the re-bidding for the "REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) UNITS PASSENGER ELEVATOR CARS WITHOUT MACHINE ROOM" at the Muralla wing of the DOLE Building with an approved budget for the contract of P5 Million Pesos.

Interested bidders must register at and submit registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting **February 24, 2005**. Deadline for registration is on **March 7, 2005**.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE may be allowed to participate in the competitive-bidding activities, to wit:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	March 8, 2005	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room, 2nd Flr., DOLE Executive Building, San Jose St., Intramuros Manila
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	March 15, 2005	between 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	-same-
Submission of Bids	March 29, 2005	between 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	-same-

Eligibility requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-Bid Conference or they can be secured on **February 24, 2005** at the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Flr DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila.

Eligible Bidders are also enjoined to inspect the DOLE premises prior to the conduct of the Pre-Bid Conference in coordination with the General Services Division, Administrative Service.

Eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the undersigned on the date and time specified. Registered bidders are invited to witness the eligibility check on the said date at exactly 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

Interested Bidders are requested to present their proposals, personally or through their authorized representatives, on the date of the bidding. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 5273480 and 5273583.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. ELENITA DUNGO-NIETO**
Vice-Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee and
Officer-in-Charge, Legal Service

(PDI - February 24 & March 2, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILIGAN
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the City Government of Iligan through the Office of the Iligan City Water Works System (ICWS) invites interested contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to Bid for the following projects.

NAME OF THE PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (Million)	PCAB LICENSE CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION
Project A - Construction of 650,000 gals, R.C. Reservoir, Site Development Access Road, Installation of Piping, Valving System and Distribution Pipelines in Barangay Luinab	37.138	Category B/ Medium A in Water Supply
Project B - Improvement of Water Supply in part of Brgy. Tubod and Tipanoy	9.93	Category C & D Small B in Water Supply

Interested contractors must submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and eligibility requirements provided for in R.A. 9184 on or before March 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat c/o City General Services Office (CGSO) City Hall, Iligan City.

Bid Documents will be available to eligible contractors for issuance starting March 11 to March 26, 2005, 5:00 p.m. at BAC Office City Hall, Iligan City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 each project.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 6, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office Cityhall, Iligan City.

The submission and opening of technical and financial proposals will be on April 18, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at Casemiro Cabigon Hall, City Hall, Palao, Iligan City.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer of the most advantageous to the government.

For more details, please contact BAC Secretariat Tel. Nos. (063) 221-4340, 221-4341 or Iligan City Water Works Office Tel. Nos. 221-4810, 223-7703.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN D. MAATA**
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–February 17 & 24, 2005)

IMPERIAL CONSULTING AMA eccp

The Voice of Leadership:

How Leaders Inspire, Influence and Achieve Results

08-10 March 2005 The Peninsula Manila

"The difference between mere management and leadership is communication"
—Winston Churchill

It's a fact of organizational life: To lead well, you must communicate well. No communication, no leadership—no question about it. This fast-paced, results-oriented seminar is uniquely designed to strengthen your leadership communication skills. You'll learn practical techniques to shape your leadership messages, hone an authentic leadership voice and engage in powerful conversations that achieve results.

Who Should Attend
Experienced and recently promoted managers, supervisors and executives...as well as anyone who aspires to a leadership position or who is expected to provide leadership.

How You Will Benefit
- Become a more effective communicator—and leader
- Get your requests better and more quickly implemented
- Build greater buy-in, trust and loyalty
- Overcome resistance to change

What You Will Cover
- The Voices of Effective Leaders—Past and Present—Finding Your Voice
- Finding Your Leadership Voice
- Crafting Compelling Messages That Inspire Action and Produce Results
- Taking the Lead
- Setting the Direction You Want Others to Travel—Inspiring Others Into Action

Training Fees
- Php 29,400 + 10% VAT – AMA Members
- Php 30,950 + 10% VAT – Non-Members

For further information, please call Jasmin Runez at telephone numbers 8451324 or 7596680 or e-mail at jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph

---

Terry Fox Marathon/Walk

THE PHILIPPINES Cancer Society, in partnership with the Embassy of Canada and Terry Fox Foundation, will be holding the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope on March 6, Sunday at the Cultural Complex, Manila. This marathon has also been organized worldwide for over 20 years by the Canadian embassies and the Terry Fox Foundation abroad.

Terry Fox is Canadian lad who developed cancer at the age of 18. His leg was amputated and was replaced with an artificial one. Seeing the plight of cancer patients in hospitals, he made it his mission to run across Canada raised funds, Undeterred by his handicap, Fox managed to trek across Canada single-handedly and won the sympathies of people.

Unfortunately, halfway through, his cancer constrained him. He had to be hospitalized where a few weeks later, he succumbed to the disease. His efforts were not in vain. His marathon succeeded to raise at least $23 million and uplift the hopes of cancer victims worldwide.

Spearheading the run in the country is Ambassador Peter Sutherland with the Board Members of the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS) other dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps. The run will also be participated in by members of the corporate sector, students from colleges in Metro Manila the armed forces, cancer survivors, patients, support groups and their caregivers.

Registration will be at 6 am but the run will start promptly at 7 am. The run will start at Vicente Sotto St., taking the west lane of Roxas Blvd. up to Padre Faura and will end at Vicente Sotto St. Proceeds raised from the run will go to the Philippine Cancer Society's epidemiological research on cancer registry.

Interested parties may call the Philippine Cancer Society at tel nos. 734-2114, 734-2127 or email pcsi@pcsi.com.ph

---

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-043	80 units UPS, 6KVA	P 9,600,000.00	LBP Funds
	60 units AVR, 2KVA	300,000.00	
	150 units Modems	2,250,000.00	
	100 units Sharing Devices	2,400,000.00	
	75 units Ethernet Switch	1,200,000.00	
	80 rolls Ethernet Cable Cat-5	200,000.00	
2005-046	20 units MICR Reader	P 5,000,000.00	LBP Funds
	2 units MICR Encoder	440,000.00	

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on March 30, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 and P1,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-043 and 2005-046, respectively.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on March 10, 2005 at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

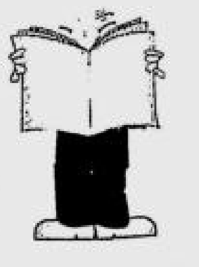
All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI – February 24 & March 3, 2005)



Where you find the best.

JOB Market ONLINE

VISIT US AT:
www.jobmarketonline.com

Holcim to put up power plant

By Doris C. Dumlao

HOLCIM Philippines Inc., formerly known as Union Cement Corp., is considering putting put up a 50-megawatt power plant in Mindanao for its own fuel requirements.

This was in view of the expected shortfall in power supply in the island this year.

In a press briefing yesterday, Holcim chief operating officer Paul O'Callaghan added the company would spend P500 million this year, up from P150 million in capital outlay in 2004, to find ways to reduce its reliance on coal and external sources of electricity.

However, he said the company was concerned with regulatory uncertainties, particularly the Securities and Exchange Commission's reversal of an earlier ruling exempting Holcim's shareholder Cemco Holdings from a tender offering to minority shareholders.

O'Callaghan said he was not sure whether Cemco, which earlier took over a 51-percent stake in Holcim, could afford to comply with the tender offer requirement of the SEC. The purchase of the minority stockholders is estimated to cost P6 billion at Holcim's current market capitalization.

He said Cemco would not have gone ahead with the transaction if the PSE and SEC had cleared from the start that a tender offering would not be required.

"All we know is that they (Cemco) are studying their options," said the Holcim COO, noting that going to court was as option considering that previous actions were done aboveboard.

"Even the option of going through the order is quite unclear. There has been big turnover in sale of shares so there's not much minority investors left," he said.

About 20 percent of Holcim's stake is estimated to be in the hands of minority shareholders.

O'Callaghan said Holcim had returned to profitability last year, but was facing difficult challenges such as the uncertainty in power supply in Mindanao. Also, he said that there had not yet been a significant pick-up in demand for cement even if the construction sector was reported to be on the rebound.

"We're in the middle of evaluating the planned power generation project in Mindanao, where we have two cement plants and they use about 50 MW," O'Callaghan said.

As a rule of thumb, he said power generation would cost about $1 million per MW.

At present, he estimated that half of the company's operating costs represented power costs. He said the company might put up its own power plant to ensure stable supply of electricity for its operations.

He said Holcim would decide within this year whether to push through with the power plant project, as construction would take about two to three years.

Listed holding firm Bacnotan Consolidated Industries and unit Atlas Cement Corp earlier sold their combined 51-percent stake in Union Cement Holdings to Cemco, a subsidiary of Switzerland's Holcim Ltd.

But Holcim's minority shareholder National Life Insurance Company of the Philippines earlier asked Cemco Holdings to buy its 15.8 percent stake in the cement firm.

2 airlines get additional flights to RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

QATAR Airways and Gulf Air have received the go-ahead of the Civil Aeronautics Board for the increase in the frequency of their flights to the Philippines.

The two airlines can now fly daily to and from Manila, from their previous six-times-a-week schedule, a transport official said. Qatar also flies to Cebu.

With the additional flights, more travelers could avail themselves of the competitive packages from the two Middle Eastern carriers.

According to sources, Gulf Air offers a two-way trip from Manila to London for $550 while Qatar sells tickets for as low as $400 from Cebu to Doha.

"The two carriers were allowed to increase their frequency by one flight a week because based on the respective bilateral air agreements, we can increase the flights once the load factor exceeds 70 percent," the official said.

Qatar got a provisional authority for the additional flight pending the conclusion of ongoing hearings, while Gulf Air was given the final approval.

An industry source, however, is seeking clarification whether the increased in traffic volume claimed by the two Middle Eastern carriers came solely from the traffic to and from the Philippines or it considered traffic from pick-up points.

Load factor is the ratio of the space or seat sold by an airline in relation to the total available space or seats.

Qatar Airways is the national carrier of the Arabian Gulf State of Qatar. By the end of 2005, it said it would be flying to at least 60 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the Indian subcontinent and the Far East.

Gulf Air is the national carrier of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman. Gulf Air now flies to more than 50 destinations.

Japan investments in RP up 187%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DIRECT investments from Japan rose 187 percent to P25.38 billion last year from P8.84 billion in 2003, as Japanese trade and business missions home in on the Philippines.

The Department of Trade and Industry said Japanese businesses went into the local manufacturing and service ventures, particularly in the areas of information technology, software development, electronics, chemicals, communications equipment, automotive parts and health care.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said Japanese business sentiment on the country was still very positive and that the country's best comparative strength remained its world-class skills of workers.

Santos said the increased inflow of investments from Japan further encouraged the government to align and adjust policies to sustain the country's position as the preferred business location and platform of operations for foreign firms in general.

"The government has adopted measures that promote macro-economic stability; provides better infrastructure and support facilities; and encourages the growth of support businesses to provide locally sourced parts and supplies for investing companies," he said.

Santos added that more investments from and trade opportunities with Japan were expected to be realized after the recently concluded mission from the Kansai Economic Federation or Kankeiren.

Kankeiren groups businesses that are based in the city of Kansai such as Mitsubishi, Matsushita, Marubeni and Sanyo as well as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

Earn as high as 3.5%

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 & up
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.625%	2.875%	3.125%
3 months	2.875%	3.125%	3.375%
6 months	3.125%	3.125%	3.375%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted rates are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

- ONE ROOM NIGHT W/3 FULL MEALS
- HOT WATER & AIRCON W/ PRIVATE T & B

₱645/PAX – 3/ROOM SHARING

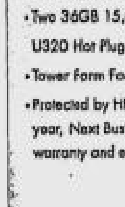
- SEMINAR VENUE W/ PROPS & SNACK
- GARDENS, SWIMMING POOL, & CABLE TV

ALL-IN VALUE SEMINARS
CROWN PEAK HOTELS TELS. (047) [illegible] TELEFAX [illegible]
CEL# [illegible]

When uncertainty is certain, and the unexpected is expected, you'll still be in control.

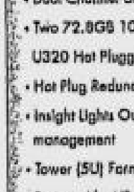
In business, adapating to change and being always in control is the name of the game. In the field of information technology infrastructure, one name is truly reliable, the Intel® processor-based HP ProLiant servers. Be the master of change with HP ProLiant servers. Engineered to deliver maximum uptime, minimal deployment and minimal maintenance hassles, all while providing enough scalability for years to come, these HP ProLiant servers are mercilessly tested with the most demanding and latest industry-standards. Designed for effortless troubleshooting and expansion, you can always demand on these HP ProLiant servers to adapt to your needs. It has everything that you expect and know from these HP machines at prices that adapt to your budgets too. We think you'll like our adaptive approach to infrastructure.

Managing the demanding needs of your growing business has never been this easy. Rely on these HP ProLiant servers to always deliver.



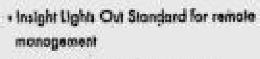
ProLiant ML350
G4 Server

PHP170,500 with VAT
- One Intel® Xeon™ Processor 3.20 GHz (up to 2 supported)
- 1 GB Main Memory
- NC7761 PCI Gigabit Network Adapter
- Dual Channel Ultra320 SCSI adapter
- Two 36GB 15,000 rpm, U320 Hot Pluggable Hard drives
- Tower Form Factor
- Protected by HP Services, including a three-year, Next Business Day, on-site limited warranty and extended Pre-Failure Warranty



HP ProLiant ML370
G4 Server

PHP250,000 with VAT
- One Intel® Xeon™ Processor 3.20 GHz (up to 2 supported)
- 1 GB PC2 3200 DDR2 400MHz Main Memory
- NC7781 PCI-X Gigabit Network Adapter
- Dual Channel Ultra320 SCSI Adapter
- Two 72.8GB 10,000 rpm, U320 Hot Pluggable Hard Drives
- Hot Plug Redundant Power Supplies
- Insight Lights Out Standard for remote management
- Tower (5U) Form Factor
- Protected by HP Services, including a three-year, Next Business Day, on-site limited warranty and extended Pre-Failure Warranty



HP ProLiant DL380
G4 Server

PHP276,500 with VAT
- One Intel® Xeon™ Processor 3.20 GHz (up to 2 supported)
- 1 GB PC2-3200R 400MHz DDR2 Main Memory
- NC7782 Dual Port PCI-X Gigabit Network Adapter
- Ultra320 Smart Array 6i RAID Controller
- Two 72.8GB 10,000 rpm, U320 Hot Pluggable Hard Drives
- Hot Plug Redundant Power Supplies
- Insight Lights Out Standard for remote management
- Rack (2U) Form Factor, (3.5-inch)
- Protected by HP Services, including a three-year, Next Business Day, on-site limited warranty and extended Pre-Failure Warranty

Discount on hard drive and memory
- Get Php 5,000 off list price for additional 72.8GB 10K rpm, U320 Hot Pluggable Hard Drive when bought with any of these bundles!
- Get Php 6,000 off list price for additional 1GB RAM when bought with any of these bundles!

EXTEND AND ENHANCE YOUR STANDARD PRODUCT WARRANTY. INSIST ON HP CARE PACK SERVICES TODAY.

Solutions for the adaptive enterprise.
hp®
invent

Buy these special-priced bundles now!

CALL	(632) 867-3557 Toll-free 1-800-1441-6688
EMAIL	ph.contact@hp.com
VISIT	your local hp reseller

intel inside
XEON™

© 2005 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Intel, Intel logo, Intel Xeon, Intel Inside and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Product pictures do not depict actual quantity of bundled hard disk drives. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

Alternative Therapy 8327363

AROMATHERAPHY 752-0018

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

HOLLYWOOD 4560799

Karisma Massage Ctr 4215996

MALE MASSAGE 0920-9064273

MASSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

MR. UNIVERSE MASSAGE 1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★ 11A Kamias QC 4350978

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

ULTIMUS
Well Built Hot Male Masseur 1143-I Del MonteAve QC4107328

REFLEXOLOGY

Field of Dreams M/F 4160811

★★Feels Good 4127758★★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

Jojo HMS 0920-8635511

MILLENIUM M/F 9347633

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT 5268216 / 5301315

HOUSEHOLD

Low Ofc Fee Maids 4358404

Q'lity Maids w/NBI 4358404

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Best Driver Maid 4547542

Best Maid Yaya C-Giver 4384809

DIRECT MAIDS,YAYA, COOK 7289060

GOOD MAIDS YAYAS COOK W/ NBI #896-7402

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

Low Rate Maid 9287096

Maid Ya2 Cook Driver Nurse Mwife Cgiver 3751424

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maid Yaya 5343088

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206704 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

L-BAHAY 785-2911

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

P1.1M 2br 2Stry 805-4686

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/deck P3.610M up 8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Bung 3BR 3.8M accept terms T-8232765

Sucat 180m² 2stry 4BR 5TB Rooftop 2Grg Maids Rm Call 0920-9202839/843-1712

BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs (0920)7572330

CAVITE

CAVITE
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK
Maguyam Rd., Carmona, Cavite
Individual Titles are Ready
Phase 1 & Phase II Fully developed
with Existing Locators
Phase III - Pres-selling
Owner/Developer
CATHAY LAND, INC.
634-2956 • 636-0111 TO 14

LAGUNA

3400/mo 25yrs (0910)8363679

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort 10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

12M Condo Nr. C5 DFort 2-4BR 10%DP Move-In 0927-3308614

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

RESORT TYPE CONDO 2-4BR GlobalCT nrDport 1.0M Up Comp't Amenit's Rent2Own PG-IBG Ok! 09206348545

PASIG

Class A bes. Makro Cainta tescorealty.com 09275337250

Near Podium Malayan Plaza Terms RFO 1-2br 634-1212

ORTIGAS MANSION CONDO P200K-DP-move In P20K/mo. 0% Interest 09184131377

QUEZON CITY

Alpha Vic. 4br 3tb 2car P7M 6341212

CUBAO Condo 1.5M 9126976

EASTWOOD 3BR3TB + Lndry / Utility Rm 77m² Panoramic River View Pool 24Hr Sec 4.5M neg 09184845443

SAN JUAN

P2.4M QUADRILLON MANSION M. Paterno St. & N. Domingo San Juan Call Reynold @ CP# 0917-4327579

LOT

QUEZON CITY

LIBIS QC 204m² 6400544

TAGAYTAY

300m² 5Yrs 0% Int 6286238

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

Proj8 3car grge 24T 9137513

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

ORIENTAL GARDEN CONDO 2BR, FF, Chino Roces Ave., Makati •0916-5063803•

MANILA

ASTRAL TOWER fmt PGH 1br 15T/mo. 09215046978;8311596

QUEZON CITY

4rent 4BR 4TB w/Attic 2CGrg Bellevue Subd. nr. Grace H.S. 374-8832

TAGUIG

RENT TO OWN CONDO
Nr. Global City & D' Fort 50K-move In 17K/mo 09184131377

APARTMENT

PASAY

PASAY NR EDSA MRT LRT 1-3 BR W/PARKING 2318973

QUEZON CITY

BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao labshp 500m² 8974697

ROOM & BOARD

Apartel Manila 7118679

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P200! Sucat Pque 8275345

Rm / Bedspace Male Aircon Mktl 8709999 / 09204595619

BEDSPACE

Male Pasay P1.5 5500254

Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8874697

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

1999 F150 CALL 9516310

HONDA

00Accord vtl a/t 550T 4267915

00CRV4x4 P595 a/t 09184238154

02Civic VTI a/t 665T 9264566

02Civic VTI m/t 545T 4361294

Honda Civic VTiS 2001 A/T New Tires & Mags (Momo), 450T Call Mr. Edozio 427-8915 • 0915-5639302

NISSAN

01Exalta m/t 360T 09185543480

97 Nissan Sentra EX Saloon 77km P175T 0917-8176435

RUSH! 01 Mdl Nissan Frontier P600T Neg w/Carry Boy 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552515

TOYOTA

95FX DUAL AIRCON 5K GAS P170K 0918-3382948

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

VAN/PICK-UP

2001 Strada, fully loaded, TV, 12cd changer, camper shell w /AC and Japanese Seat, bull bar, others. 780T Call 0920-9003033

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Delica Serena Space Gear Pajero L. Cruiser Terrano Hi - Lite - Town Ace Canter Elf Suzuki etc Finance T-In 9120547 / 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Car Vans 9292811 4100495 4142877

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L300 • Urvan • Starex • MB100 • Vios • Altis 7258388

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN 0917-5444721 / 6424405

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco U Drive w/Driver All kinds cars vans SUV Div. wk. mo. Rental 8023021-22 Cebu (032)3451802

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX
L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748705

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7126202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL TRAINS w/K9 PSYCHOLOGY Full Guarantee. T721-37-36

WANTED TO BUY

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#604-0484 • 834-2808

WE ARE PUBLISHING SEVERAL MONTHLY TRADE MAGAZINES (OVER 40 YEARS OLD) BASED IN QUEZON CITY, IN NEED OF:

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- Not more than 28 years old
- Must posses at least a Bachelor's Degree from a reputable school
- With 4 years experience as editorial assistant, as reporter or deskman
- Proficient with Microsoft Programs
- Excellent interpersonal skills with above average communication skills both verbal and written
- Computer literate

Qualified applicants may apply in writing with recent photo and bio-data to:

The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 1295, Manila

Or apply in person to:

626 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
(in front of Funeraria Paz)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JESUS S.F. GONZAGA, Sr. was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 10; Page No. 99; Book No. 2; Series of 2005 of Notary Public Dante S. David of Quezon City
(PDI-Feb.10, 17, & 24, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUMEN MILAD settled by their heirs through an extrajudicial portion acknowledged before Notary Public Delfin Agcaoili of Quezon City as per Doc No. 2437; Page No. 18; Book No. CXV; Series of 2004.
(PDI Feb 10, 17 & 24, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AURORA GUIANG CONCEPCION settled by their heirs through an extrajudicial portion acknowledged before Notary Public Corleto Castro of Pampanga as per Doc No. 2437; Page No. 18; Book No. CXV; Series of 2004.
(PDI Feb 10, 17 & 24, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE TIMOTEO V. FORONDA WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIR AS PER DOC. NO. 81; PAGE NO. 12; BOOK NO. LXXII; SERIES OF 2005 UNDER NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. ERNESTO L. MENDOZA. (PDI FEB 17,24 & MAR. 3, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE of loss OR#A105127, A105128 of Tricom Dynamics Inc. The said ORs are invalid.
(PDI February 24, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given that BOI Certificate of Registration No. EP 94-602 issued on 31 December 1994 as New Product of Ropes, Cordage, Twines and Rope Made Products under the name of BIG BEN PHILS., INC. was lost.
(PDI-Feb. 24, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given that BOI Certificate of Registration No. VII EP 93-022 issued on 10 February 1994 as New Product of Industrial Gloves under the name of GOLD BELL SPINNING MILLS, INC. was lost.
(PDI-Feb 24 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTENTION
Mr. ALBINO RODRIGUEZ of Block 6 Lot 5, a member-beneficiary of Bonanza Phase IV Dwellers Association are subject for substitution due to default in payment as per NHMFC Guidelines and as amended by the Board of Directors.
MR. JAIME C. MANLANGIT
President Bonanza IV Dwellers Assn.
PDI-Feb. 24, 2005

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

P9,000.00 Investment
EARN P10th up /week
Show you how 09177499477

Want to have your OWN BUSINESS? at minimal cost? with BIG earning potential of P10k weekly? 0917-4582003

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

DRIVER, Stay-In, 10 Yrs. Exp., Police & Brgy. Clearance 724-9330 724-9328

NEEDED LIFT MECHANIC AND LIFT TECHNICIAN FOR ABU DHABI N DUBAI PLS. CALL CELL# 9159938410

FEMALE

LICENSED PHARMACIST
6500 W/ FOOD
10 AM - 5 PM M-F ONLY
URGENT T-898470

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8922818

Domestic Helper Beautician Nurse 09206262141 5224435

SALES MKTG STF 09178451373

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union

Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Web site: www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address: nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION 01

The National Food Authority, NFA Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union invites qualified Integrated Cargo Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Integrated Cargo Handling Services in the discharging of more or less 50,000 MT or 1,000,000 bags rice imports for the year 2005, at Poro Port, San Fernando City and delivery to designated warehouses within La Union to include but not limited to arrastre, stevedoring, wharfage, maintenance and security fee, hauler's pass, truckscaling, and trucking with an Approved Budget for the Contract of P20,391,525.00

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE
1. Advertisement First Publication Second Publication	February 24, 2005 March 3, 2005
2. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	February 28-March 9, 2005 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	March 10, 2005 (10:00 a.m.)
4. Issuance of Minutes of Pre-Bidding Conference	March 13, 2005
5. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	March 22, 2005 (10:00 a.m.)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P5,000.00.

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously three (3) envelopes, one containing the eligibility requirements and two(2) envelopes containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(Sgd.) RUBEN S. RIMANDO, CESO VI
Assistant Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI-Feb. 24 & March 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 01
San Juan, La Union

Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79
Web site: www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address: nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07 & (072) 242-59-08

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR HANDLING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Handling Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Unloading Services of 2005 NFA imported/local rice at the different NFA/Leased Warehouses in Region I, to wit:

	Province/Destination/Warehouses	Approved Volume (in bags of 50 kg) for Transfer Within the Region	Approved Budget for the Contract (Rate per bag of 50kg (P) x Total Volume)
1	NFA GID Warehouse, San Juan/ Staging Warehouse, La Union	1,860,000	5,580,000.00
2	NFA Loakan/NFA Kadwa Warehouse Baguio City	280,000	840,000.00
3	NFA GID Warehouse, Abra	22,000	66,000.00
4	NFA GID Warehouse, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	60,000	180,000.00
5	NFA GID Warehouse, Bantay, Ilocos Sur	105,000	315,000.00
6	NFA GID Warehouse, Binalonan/ NFA Rosales Warehouse, Rosales,Pangasinan	165,000	495,000.00
7	NFA GID Alaminos/ NFA GID Warehouse, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	228,000	684,000.00

Interested Handling Contractors may bid [illegible] any or all warehouse-destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are [illegible]ws:

ACTIVITIES	DATE
1. Advertisement First Publication Second Publication	February 24, 2005 March 3, 2005
2. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Document	February 28-March 9, 2005 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	March 10, 2005 (1:00 p.m.)
4. Issuance of Minutes of Pre-Bidding Conference	March 13, 2005
5. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	March 22, 2005 (1:00 p.m.)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P5,000.00.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously three (3) envelopes, one containing the eligibility requirements and two(2) envelopes containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND /OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

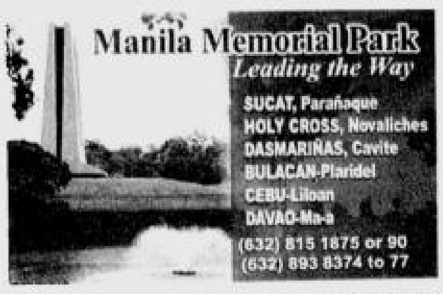
For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(Sgd.) RUBEN S. RIMANDO, CESO VI
Assistant Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI-Feb. 24 & March 3, 2005)

PMAP seminars

THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Essentials of Human Resource Management which will be held on Feb. 21 to 24. Registration fee is P8,500 for PMAP Members and P10,000 for Non PMAP Members. The program entitled Principles and Techniques in Instructional Design is scheduled on Feb. 21 to 22. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP Members and P7,100 for Non PMAP Center. A two-day workshop on Competency Based Interviewing Techniques is scheduled on Feb. 23 to 24. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP Members and P7,100 for Non PMAP Members. All programs will be held at PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: maylene.gatdula@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph


Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque
HOLY CROSS, Novaliches
DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
BULACAN-Plaridel
CEBU-Liloan
DAVAO-Ma-a
(632) 815 1875 or 90
(632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

HERITAGE PARK
Mortuary – Crematory
"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory
on the Seventh Death Anniversary of

Ma. Elena "Lenny" G. Yuchengco

who peacefully joined her Creator on February 25, 1998.

Her father, Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco and her family
and loved ones request relatives and friends to join them in
praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at:

Teresa G. Yuchengco Chapel, Level 4, Podium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City
on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 12:15 p.m.

Lenny G. Yuchengco Chapel, 3rd Floor, GPL Building, Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
on Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City
on Friday, February 25, 2005 at 6:15 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

In loving memory of a
devoted husband, a loving father
and a dedicated friend

BENSON T. FOO

May 30, 1953 – February 24, 2004

We love you ...
We missed you ...
We'll forever remember you ...

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord ....12:15 PM
St. Paul the Apostle Parish ....6:00 AM
Holy Eucharistic Parish, Moonwalk ....7:00 PM

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

BIENVENIDO G. LIBORO

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on February 22, 2005 at the age of 64.

His bereaved family, relatives, and friends request that prayers be offered for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, February 25, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

The Board of Trustees,
Officers and Staff of

SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEE
AND FINANCE CORPORATION
(SBGFC)

condole with the family of

MS. ZORAYDA AMELIA C. ALONZO

Chair & CEO, SBGFC
and DTI Undersecretary for SME Development

whose father,

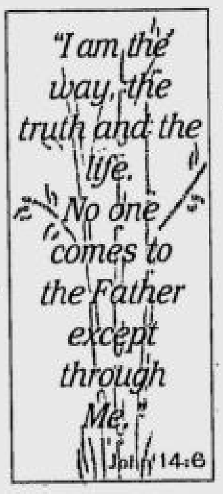
ENGR. PABLO M. CAPISTRANO

Former President, Philippine Society of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers
Former President, Philippine Geological Society
Former Member, Board of Examiners for Mining Engineering

died in the Grace of our Lord and joined his beloved wife, Laura
on February 22, 2005 at the age of 91.

We request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills. He will make a final visit to his home in Marungko, Angat, Bulacan on Saturday, February 26, 2005, where a 10:00 a.m. Mass will be held at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Interment will be on the same day, Saturday, after the 4:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at the Garden of Salvation, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.


"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

LILLIAN NAVARRA BENEDICTO

of Makati and Ivisan, Capiz

Died peacefully in the arms of her Lord and Savior
on February 22, 2005 at the age of 74.

Loving daughter of **Agustin Navarra** (†) and **Maria Villagracia** (†); **Felipe Villagracia** (†) and **Esperanza Varcarcel** (†); beloved wife of **Felix (Peting) A. Benedicto, Jr.**; her children **Lilibeth (Bibs)** and **Armando Figueroa**; **Meg** and **Frank Hundley**; **Nonoy**; **Malta** and **John Manaloto**; her grandchildren **Mark** and **Kaye**; **Misha**; **Mikey** and **Mark** and great grandson **Miko**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati. Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on Tuesday, March 1, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE:
897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;
897-2535;
897-8425
(Telefax)

CUBAO:
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

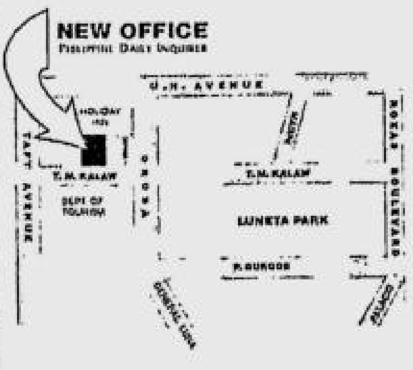
MAKATI:
892-5578;
811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW:
528-0213;
527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219;
635-0220

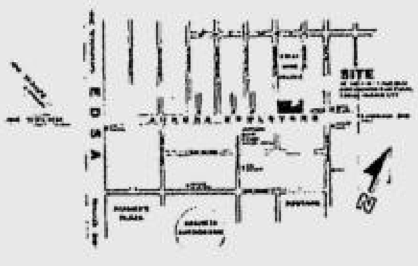
INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Branches are open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.



MANILA BRANCH
G/F TRINITY BLDG.,
836 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
TEL. NO.: 527-3342 / 522-4406
Contact Persons: Babes, Eric & Greg

CUBAO BRANCH
891 G/F, ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG.
AURORA BLVD. COR. OXFORD ST.,
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: 912-9008 TO 11
Contact Persons: Aileen, Pat, Adel & Iris



BUSINESS

COUNCIL FOR DEBT RELIEF PROPOSED

Senator seeks selective repudiation of gov't debt

By Doris C. Dumlao

HARDLINE critics of the government, including legislators, yesterday declared that selective debt repudiation was a better alternative to extracting more tax payments from the impoverished populace.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. yesterday filed Senate Bill 1928 which sought to establish a "Council for Debt Relief" to review all loan agreements entered into by past and present Philippine governments to partially relieve the country of its burgeoning debt.

Earlier, Villar also filed a bill (SB 510) imposing a ceiling on public sector borrowings, including contingent and assumed liabilities.

House sectoral representative Satur Ocampo, president of militant group BayanMuna, yesterday also said that the Philippines would be better off following Argentina's drastic moves to secure debt relief.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo, citing Argentina, warns of an economic meltdown-which we cannot survive—once we falter in debt payment," Ocampo said. "She has invoked Argentina to scare the people into accepting new and higher taxes."

Villar echoed Ocampo's sentiments, saying he did not fear the Argentinian specter.

The senator noted that the Latin American country was now only paying 28 percent of its original debts.

Villar said this was why he wanted to form a council that would study the debts—especially those that were clearly contracted in anomalous manners as these were the ones with better chance of getting relief.

The senator said this should have been done in 1986, or right after the Marcos dictatorship was ousted, but it would not hurt to give it a try with the country's remaining bilateral lenders.

He acknowledged that it would be difficult to restructure the debts in the form of bonds issued to investors, mostly Filipinos or Philippine banks and entities, so outstanding bilateral loans would be prioritized.

During the forum, Villar said the country's over 40 years of relationship with the IMF and the World Bank had not resulted in a significant reduction in poverty.

Ocampo yesterday took part, along with other militant groups, in the "People's and Parliamentarians' Consultative Assembly on the debt crisis held at the University of the Philippines.

Ocampo said that what the President did not want to talk about was the outcome of Argentina's bold unilateral decision to stop paying debts of more than $160 billion to foreign creditors.

"The fact is that its economy has grown by 8 percent for two consecutive years, its currency has stabilized and two million jobs have been added since 2002," he said.

"Argentina pulled off these achievements by focusing all the country's resources on developing the domestic economy, which it was able to do by setting aside the economic prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," Ocampos stressed.

Instead of fearing what happened to the Latin American country, Ocampo thus said the Philippines must learn and get inspiration from it, in line with snowballing clamor among poor countries across Africa, Latin America and Asia to stop oppressive debt payments.

"Like Argentina, much of our debt was incurred under a fascist military regime," Ocampo said. "The Marcos dictatorship chained the Philippine economy further to debt and IMF bondage. Usurious, stringent and onerous loans were contracted with the IMF and international creditors."

Ocampo outlined a four-pronged drastic approach to address the debt crisis which he would like Ms Macapagal to consider:

- Repudiate the policy of automatic appropriation for debt payments;
- Cancel all illegitimate and onerous debts, whether through negotiation or unilateral action-starting with the loan related to the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and other Marcos debts;
- Call a moratorium on foreign debt servicing for at least five years; and,
- Conduct an audit of all public sector debts for the purpose of determining what other unjust loans should be repudiated.

You Don't Want This To Happen To Your Hair

Losing your hair is a major concern for everyone. You appear older than your age, you're not as handsome as before and you feel insecure about your image. If hair loss greatly upsets you then solve it and stop it at Svenson International. Our Total Hair Revitalization Program can eliminate the main cause of your hair loss and improve its condition to promote thicker hair. If you're suffering from baldness, our technologically advanced replacements can re-create your hair's natural look and feel.

Get more hair for a better look. Call us today for a FREE hair and scalp check-up.

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
QUEZON CITY 4/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

LGUGC
LGU GUARANTEE CORPORATION

IMUS BONDS SERIES "A"
Report on the Financial Condition of the Trust Fund as of December 31, 2004

Collections for 2004		
Sale of Bonds	P	47,000,000.00
Total Interest earned		703,506.32
Total Funds Available		47,703,506.32
Less: Total Disbursement		25,746,433.85
Funds Available (12-31-04)	P	21,957,072.47

Certified correct:

FVP MANUEL S. BANAYAD
Head, DBP-Trust Services

Noted:

HON. HOMER T. SAQUILAYAN
Mayor, Municipality of Imus

DOE hints at oil price hike as world rates surge

By Abigail L. Ho

MOTORISTS should brace themselves for a possible oil price hike in the coming days as world oil prices again soar to near historic highs.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the benchmark Dubai crude soared to $40.90 a barrel in the spot market last Tuesday, pushing up the February average to $39.25 a barrel, $1.33 higher than the January average of $37.92 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products likewise surged to a high of $58.53 a barrel last Tuesday, almost $2 higher than the Feb. 21 spot price of $56.98 a barrel.

The February average for MOPS-based unleaded gasoline jumped by more than $5 to $52.97 a barrel from $47.58 a barrel last month.

MOPS-based diesel also shot up in the spot market last Tuesday to $58.46 a barrel, driving up the February average to $53.82 a barrel from only $51.26 a barrel in January.

"With a few days left in February, it's unlikely that these averages will go down," Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya yesterday said.

While he hinted at a possible oil price hike due to the international price surges, he appealed to local oil firms not to raise prices until the end of March.

World oil prices had again started to climb in light of a possible output cut by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

World oil prices actually softened earlier in the month after the Opec announced in end-January that it would maintain its production at 27 million barrels a day.

But with the oil cartel expressing the possibility of cutting production before or during its March 16 meeting, international prices again had begun to go up.

The extended cold weather in northeastern United States as well as the continuing violence in the Middle East helped boost world oil prices.

Also, the government-triggered 2-percentage-point increase in tariffs on crude and refined petroleum products will affect local prices, an industry source said.

"Consumers shouldn't forget that the (2-percentage-point) additional tariff, which has been championed by the DOE, is currently equivalent to an additional 40 centavos per liter," the source said.

Local oil firms earlier this month jacked up prices of gasoline by 40 centavos a liter, diesel and kerosene by 30 centavos a liter, and liquefied petroleum gas by 40 centavos a liter, mainly to reflect the tariff hike, which took effect Jan. 1.

ortigas home depot

LOSS PREVENTION
ESPREME ENTERPRISES
SOBO THE POWERFUL CHOICE
Easton Builders
FAULTLESS
Locke & Moore
CREATIVE HOME SYSTEMS
Metro Shutters
Ariston
CityTrade
DOORTECH SYSTEM

KEEPING YOUR home SAFE.

HARDWARE · DOORS · LOCKS
SECURITY SYSTEM · SHUTTERS
VIDEO SURVEILANCE

FOR YOUR TOTAL SECURITY AND HARDWARE SOLUTIONS

E.D.S.A.
Meralco Ave. Flyover
Ortigas Avenue
home
Rodriguez Lanuza Ave.
C5
Julia Vargas Avenue

#1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave. near cor. Meralco Ave., Bgy. Ugong, Pasig City
Tel.: 630.0772; 636.0773 Fax: 683.0824 eMail: ortigashome@pacific.net.ph

ASSA ABLOY FAULTLESS HAFELE Master Lock MYPULLS SCHLAGE STANLEY Yale

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◆ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◆ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◆ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◆ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Yes, you are so
LUCKY
to be SINGLE!
Ship sails on May 19, 2005! So join now!
You can even win this trip for free if you register and reserve within January 10 to March 30, 2005!
Log on to www.itzamatch.com

GRILLED Certified Angus Beef Strip Loin Salad with Asian-Flavored Sauce on Mesclun Greens

Mad about angus

Consumers often think they're getting prime meat upon purchase of any beef with this tag

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Ryan Lim

THERE is an angus confusion. Aggressive and clever marketing has crowned angus the zenith of beef. Hence consumers often think they're getting prime meat upon purchase of any beef carrying the "angus" tag.

What most people don't know is that angus is just another breed of cattle, in the same way kobe beef refers to those from Wagyu cattle raised in the Kobe region of Japan. Much of angus' popularity, in fact, was generated when the American Angus Association (AAA) created the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) program in 1978.

Two years earlier, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) lowered its beef grading quality standards, making older cattle with little marbling (fat) eligible for a Choice grade.

Even the availability of beef labeled Prime by the USDA was on decline then. The CAB program was created with the aim of bringing back the high standards of beef grading. So successful was the AAA's CAB program that it has spawned other similar programs, and soon angus was all over the place.

"People automatically think angus is good beef, but the name angus doesn't guarantee quality," says Daisuke Shimojima, senior manager-customer service/marketing of CAB-International Division. "We guarantee our product's quality to our customers."

Less than 8 percent of US beef earn the distinction CAB. That's less than one for every six angus type cattle. No living animals or herds are "certified" or named

MAD/C3

PROFESSIONAL JAPANESE COOKING...
(for land, sea-based cooks & restaurateurs)

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Maya Kitchen & Japanese Master Seiji Kamura invite food enthusiasts experience opportunities to expand their knowledge, ability & creativity on a 3-day professional Japanese cooking workshop especially designed for those who want to start their own restaurant business & want to work in Japanese vessels. The course will cover preparation of traditional Japanese dishes for breakfast, lunch & dinner. Check the schedule below & sign up now.

Professional Japanese Cooking: Mar. 8-10 (T-Th) 2 - 6 p.m. Coverage: Rice Dishes (Nishokudon Gomaku Zosui, Onigiri (Curry Rice); Salads (Stick Salad Shoyoyu; Yakinasu, Horenso Goma-ae, Harusame); Main Dishes (Katsu Sand-Tonkatsu, Wafu Spaghetti, Tofu Gratin, Shioiyaki, Oden, Shishamo, Agedashi Dofu; and Soups (Yasai, Wakame, Tofu Misoshiru) P5,000

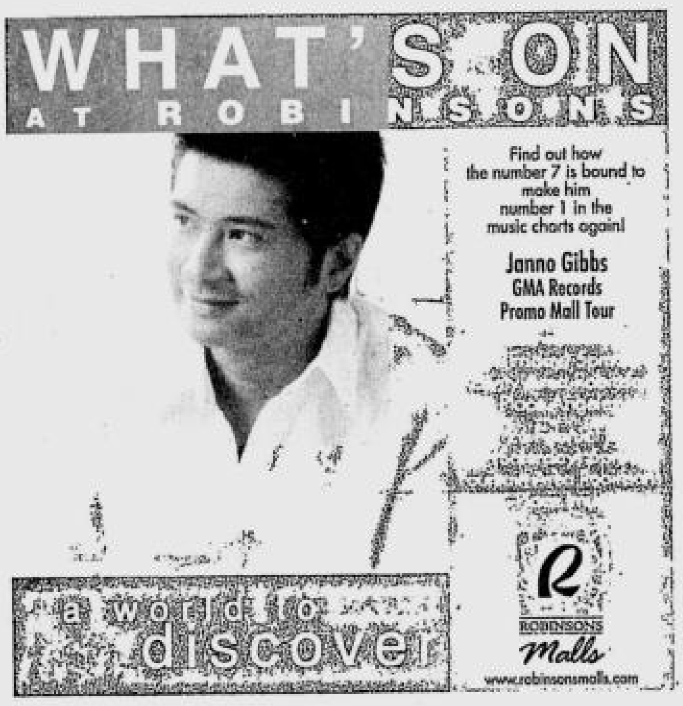
OTHER ONE-DAY SPECIALS

Lenten Specials: Mar. 5 (Sat) 9 a.m - 1 p.m. Bacalao ala Maya, Black Paella, Fish Sisig/Kinilao, Boneless Tinapang Bangus, Stuffed Squid, Spaghetti Negra. P700.
Barchow (A Salute to the graduates): Mar. 5 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Chicken Feet, Buffalo Wings, Fried Hakaw, Chicken Tail, Spicy Gambas, Cucumber Kimchi. P700.
Catering: Mar. 11-12 (F-S) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Legal and technical aspect to get started in a catering business. Facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of popular Filipino & international dishes: Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup, Baked Spring Rolls, Rolled Porkloin Adobo Style, Roast Stuffed Chicken Thighs with Garlic Gravy, Chicken Galantina, Vegetable Samosa, Creamed Spinach Soup, Spicy Chicken Wings, Quiche Lorraine, Eggplant Skordalia. Bonus: dessert recipe. Free "Food Service" catering cookbook. P3,000.
Easy as Pie: Mar. 12 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. French Apple Pie, Walnut Pie, Caramel Meringue, Chocolate Chiffon, Banana Cream, Lemon Meringue. P750.
Traditional Japanese Recipes: Mar. 19 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi; assorted sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P1,000 with free cookbook.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrolment. Pre-registration required.)

Cooking I: Mar. 1-4 or 15-18 (T-F) 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; stocks, soups and sauces and its 1001 application to poultry, fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables; common herbs and spices; purchasing; marketing and proper storage; menu planning; simple garnish and plate presentation. Plus actual cooking workshop on the preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert. P4,000.
Baking I: Mar. 1-4 or 15-18 (T-F) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Basic basics of baking including techniques applied to preparation of bread, quickbread, pies, cakes and more. P3,000 with free cookbook.
Waitering & Bartending Basics: Mar. 5 & 12 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Basic setup, suggestive selling techniques, serving and bussing out, napkin folding & skirting, classification of wine and spirits, types of glasses, mixing and serving drinks. P2,500.
Food Processing (ideal for small scale business): Mar. 9 -10 (W-Th) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tomato Sauce & Paste, Apple Jelly, assorted pickles and atcharas, flavored Kropecks, Tamarind Champoy, Ginger Tea, Chicken Ham, Longganisa. P1,500
Cooking 2: Mar. 29, 30, 31 & Apr. 1 (T-F) 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Review of Basic Culinary Principles; Meal Management; Knowledge of Herbs, Spices & Condiments; Basic Maintenance & Preservation of Food (Proper Receiving, Storage & Preparation); Menu Planning, Kitchen Accounting & Recipe Formulation; Actual Workshop on International Cuisine, Ethnic Cooking, Hors d'oeuvre, Salad, Cooked/Cured/Prepared food & Quick Desserts; Market Basket Activity. Free Mix & Match 3 cookbook. P5,000.
Baking 2: Mar. 29, 30, 31 & Apr. 1 (T-F) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage / math, commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies, cakes, pastries and bakery products including costing, batching applicable to bakery operation. P3,000.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*



Find out how the number 7 is bound to make him number 1 in the music charts again!

Janno Gibbs
GMA Records
Promo Mall Tour

www.robinsonsmalls.com

ASHAMED
OF YOUR
DARK
UNDER-
ARMS?

[illegible]

CALL ME NOW! JULIA
T (02) 3744201
T (02) 4118319
TO ORDER BY MAIL TEXT TO
09177907525
Or visit us at #34 ANAHAW ST.
VETERANS VILL. PROJ. 7 Q.C.

CCS
Where the best Bakeshop Owners & Cake Decorators are trained from...

Order your Delicious Sugar Free Fruitcakes & Cakes

1. **FEB. 28 - MAR. 4 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P10,500.** Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. **NEXT SCHED : APR. 4 - 8**
2. **MAR. 5 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - MUFFINS - MUFFINS - P3,000** Cinnamon - Crunch Sweet Potato, Onion & Shallots, Country Apple Sauce, Choco Chip, Carrot Nut, Banana Walnut Muffins. **NEXT SCHED: APR. 9**
3. **MAR. 7 - 10 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - P10,500. NEXT SCHED: APR. 11 - 14**
4. **MAR. 9 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - P4,500.** Using lace mats, New Rolling Pin w/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilting. **NEXT SCHED: APR. 13**
5. **MAR. 12 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING 1 - P3,000** Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread. **NEXT SCHED: APR. 16**
6. **// 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING**
   P2,500 - MAR. 14 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake, mamon
   P2,500 - MAR. 15 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, taisan, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake.
   P2,750 - MAR. 16 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread.
   P2,500 - MAR. 17 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, empanada
   P2,750 - MAR. 18 - Pastries & Cookies: caramel tart, almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons. **NEXT SCHED: APR. 14 - 18**
7. **MAR. 14 - 18 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE - P4,500.** (Each set is lesson covered for one day) a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling; b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium; c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes; e) Mask or Maskara - a design of your choice. **COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS FOR APPOINTMENT NEXT SCHED: APR. 18 - 22**
8. **BASIC SWISS CHOCOLATE CANDY -- MAKING TECHNIQUE - P3,500. & ADVANCED CHOCOLATE CANDY - MAKING - P3,500. - BY APPOINTMENT**
9. **MAR. 28 - APR. 1 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P13,500.** Learn to make 30 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration. **NEXT SCHED: APR. 25 - 29**
10. **APR. 2 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE 2 - P3,000.** Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for Diabetics. **NEXT SCHED: APR. 30**
11. **MAR. 18 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - TAPAS - P3,000.** Spanish Omelette, Fish Pastries, Potato & Ham Croquettes, Pescado Frito, Albondigas, Ensalada de Pollo & Mallocan Pizza **NEXT SCHED: APR. 15**
12. **APR. 1 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - EDIBLE GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P2,500. NEXT SCHED: APR. 29**

AVAIL OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE CAKE DECORATING BOOKS
"THE PHILIPPINE FLOWERS IN SUGAR & CELEBRATION BOOK 1,"
"CAKE TOPS WITH PHILIPPINE FLAIR BOOK 2,""
CAKE COLLECTION BOOK 3,"
"A GOLDEN CELEBRETION IN COLD PORCELAIN BOOK 4,"
KITCHEN AID COLORED ELEC MIXER, DEHUMIDIFIER, FOOD PROCESSOR 2005 WILTON BOOK (LIMITED STOCKS ONLY)

#91 8th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
Telefon: 913-2527
Telefax: 912-1163
Email : junflorendo@yahoo.com

PEOTRACO
CONFECTIONER POWDERED SUGAR
"THE OFFICIAL CONFECTIONER SUGAR" USED BY MRS. FLORENDO

AVELINA'S

- Offers Bed & Breakfast
- Delectable Filipino Food at Reasonable Prices
- Ideal for Open House, Retreat & Meetings
- Holy Family Chapel & Grotto w/ Garden
- Two Months Advanced reservation is a must
- On a first come, first served basis

#41 Rd 3 Indny Subd.,
Antipolo City
For Small, Private Wedding Gatherings
or a Weekend Getaway.
Create your Special Party at
AVELINA'S PLACE
Have Family & Friends put their own
Creative Touches on their Party preparations

For Inquiries,
Please Call at
Telefon 913-2527
Telefax 912-1163
Or Email Us at
junflorendo@yahoo.com

SAVE UP TO P21,000
SLIMMERS WORLD
GREAT BODIES 2004 WINNERS
CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs. on his programme.
KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs. on her programme.
ONLY P40 PER DAY
No monthly dues, no joining fees. on Full Programmes.
BIO DYNAMICS
Our medically proven fat-burning system guaranteed to give you the type of body you've always wanted in only 6 weeks!

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
NO INTEREST! MONTHLY DUES! JOINING FEES!
Only for callers today.

PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL
At the lowest price in the Philippines.

ULTRAPEEL
Micro crystals precisely remove dull layers of the skin, leaving it even-toned, lightened & rejuvenated.

BODY SCRUB & MILK BATH
A pampering and exfoliating treatment that leaves you refreshingly clean.

- AQUAMID
- BOTOX
- RESTYLANE
- PERLANE
- FACIAL
- WART REMOVAL
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- NUTRACELL-FACE
- SKIN WHITENING

Call our HOTLINES now!
FITNESS 8873533 CELLPHONE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
SKIN 8871331 CELLPHONE 09164099312

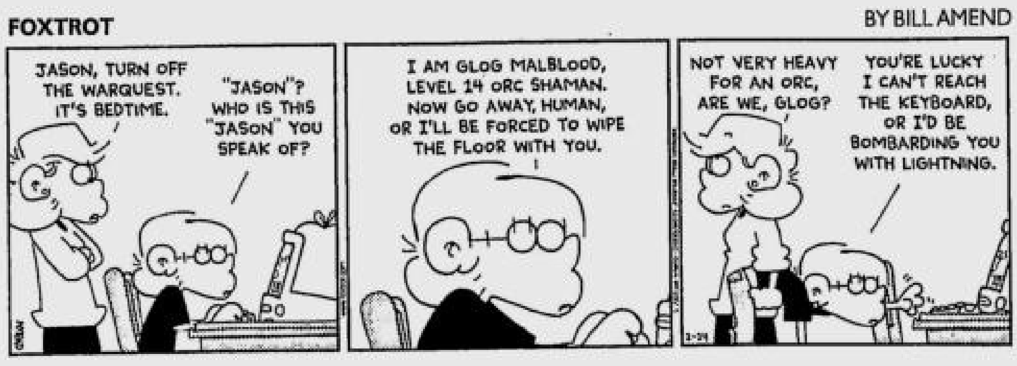
CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Sherry/Bheng 365-7653
CEBU Ramil 231-3254
GREENHILLS Bianca 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani 893-8935
MALATE Daisy 536-0619
MEGAMALL Sheila/Jenny 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Fiona/Muffet 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Ice 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

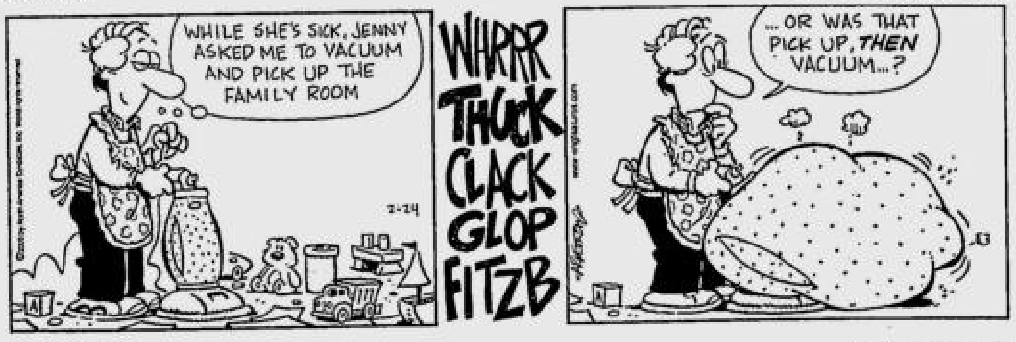
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, TURN OFF THE WARQUEST. IT'S BEDTIME.
"JASON"? WHO IS THIS "JASON" YOU SPEAK OF?
I AM GLOG MALBLOOD, LEVEL 14 ORC SHAMAN. NOW GO AWAY, HUMAN, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO WIPE THE FLOOR WITH YOU.
NOT VERY HEAVY FOR AN ORC, ARE WE, GLOG?
YOU'RE LUCKY I CAN'T REACH THE KEYBOARD, OR I'D BE BOMBARDING YOU WITH LIGHTNING.
2-24

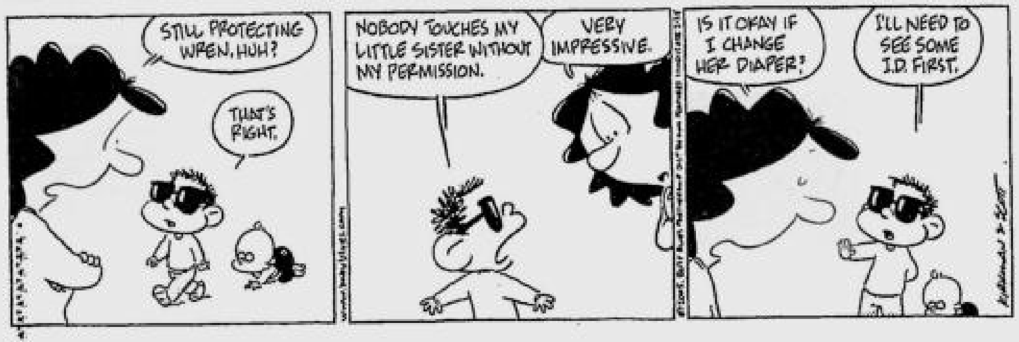
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHILE SHE'S SICK, JENNY ASKED ME TO VACUUM AND PICK UP THE FAMILY ROOM
2-24
WHRRR
THUCK
CLACK
GLOP
FITZB
...OR WAS THAT PICK UP, THEN VACUUM...?

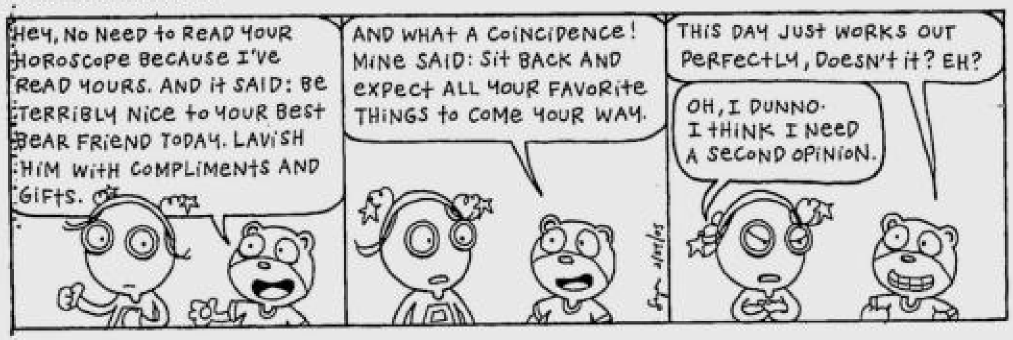
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


STILL PROTECTING WREN, HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
NOBODY TOUCHES MY LITTLE SISTER WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
VERY IMPRESSIVE.
IS IT OKAY IF I CHANGE HER DIAPER?
I'LL NEED TO SEE SOME I.D. FIRST.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, NO NEED TO READ YOUR HOROSCOPE BECAUSE I'VE READ YOURS. AND IT SAID: BE TERRIBLY NICE TO YOUR BEST BEAR FRIEND TODAY. LAVISH HIM WITH COMPLIMENTS AND GIFTS.
AND WHAT A COINCIDENCE! MINE SAID: SIT BACK AND EXPECT ALL YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO COME YOUR WAY.
THIS DAY JUST WORKS OUT PERFECTLY, DOESN'T IT? EH?
OH, I DUNNO. I THINK I NEED A SECOND OPINION.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

BORN TODAY: You are very giving. You appreciate the needs of others, and you're sympathetic to their suffering. In a similar way, you are also very receptive to others. You have strong willpower, guts and determination. In other words, you have what it takes. The year ahead is social, fun-loving and favorable for all relationships.
Birthdate of: Enrico Caruso, opera tenor; Billy Zane, actor; Edward James Olmos, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Dealing with large institutions, and the government in particular, can be unpredictable today. In addition, you feel vaguely jumpy and nervous. This feeling will pass by tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A friend will surprise you today. Someone you know will do something unusual, or possibly, you will meet someone who is quite a character!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's hard to know which way bosses will jump today. Don't try to second-guess anyone. On the other hand, you personally don't want to be dictated to. You feel independent.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Surprise opportunities for travel or to take advanced training in some way might come your way today. This window of opportunity is brief. Be prepared to respond quickly.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might find something today; alternatively, you might also lose something. Matters connected with shared property are surprising and unpredictable. Stay alert.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The actions of others definitely surprise you today. (You didn't see this one coming.) This makes you want to break free from a relationship. You don't want to be tied down or hemmed in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Systems could crash at work today. Be prepared for anything. Your routine will not go as planned today, that's for sure. Stay light on your feet, and be flexible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Love at first sight is possible today. You feel suddenly attracted to someone. In a different vein altogether, parents must be extra vigilant about children. This area is full of surprises and could include accidents.

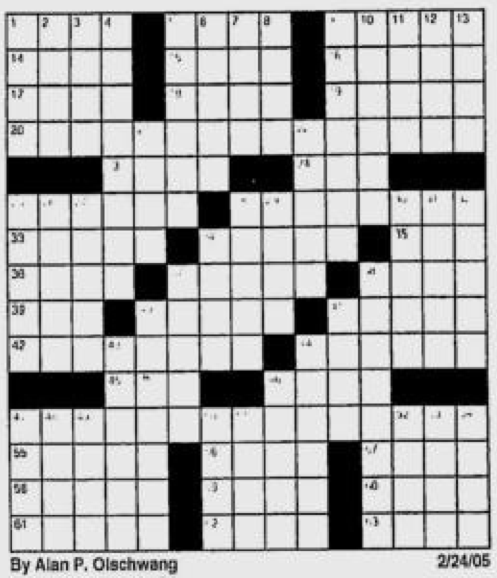
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your routine at home is subject to change and surprises today. Discussions with parents are volatile and explosive. They don't have to be, but this is a potential.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an accident-prone day. Be very careful driving, walking or running. In a similar way, you can have verbal accidents as well. Think before you speak!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Impulse spending is likely today. You see something, and you feel you have to have it. You might also lose money or lose a possession today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel rebellious against any kind of restrictions today. You might also be rash and impulsive. Count to three before you act!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
2/24/05

ACROSS
1 Skiers' transportation
5 Press
9 Face the day
14 Fabled also-ran
15 __ contendere
16 Passover feast
17 One of the Baldwins
18 Mete (out)
19 Severe
20 Start of Isaac Asimov quote
23 Dove calls
24 Groovy
25 Queequeg, e.g.
28 Votes in again
33 Sharpens
34 Duty lists
35 Strike
36 Eye part
37 Part 2 of quote
38 Bristle
39 West Coast hrs.
40 Relinquishes
41 T-bone or porterhouse
42 Mariner
44 Forever, in poetry
45 Alter the style of
46 Christmas decoration
47 End of quote
55 Harden
56 Former Italian bread
57 Pieces of pelvises
58 Sarcastic remarks
59 Dawn 'til noon
60 Five after four
61 Be taken aback
62 Venetian blind unit
63 Hockey score

DOWN
1 From Bangkok
2 Healing ointment
3 Neighborhood
4 Uses again
5 Homebound
6 Underground growth
7 Earthenware pot
8 Christmas in Paris
9 Besets
10 Follow up a deletion
11 Fateful day
12 Belgrade resident
13 Coastal bird
21 Negative responses
22 Flour grain
25 Lashes
26 Basketball game
27 Brookner or Baker
28 Jolly pirate?
29 Numerical endings
30 Shout of encouragement
31 Powerful person
32 Tent peg
34 Astronaut Sally
37 Broadcasted again
38 Manning the helm
40 Most serene
41 Fricassee
43 More equable
44 Straying
46 __ incognita
47 Asks for alms
48 College credit
49 Big band tote
50 Shade trees
51 Stringed instrument
52 Melange
53 NPR reporter Totenberg
54 Scottish Highlander

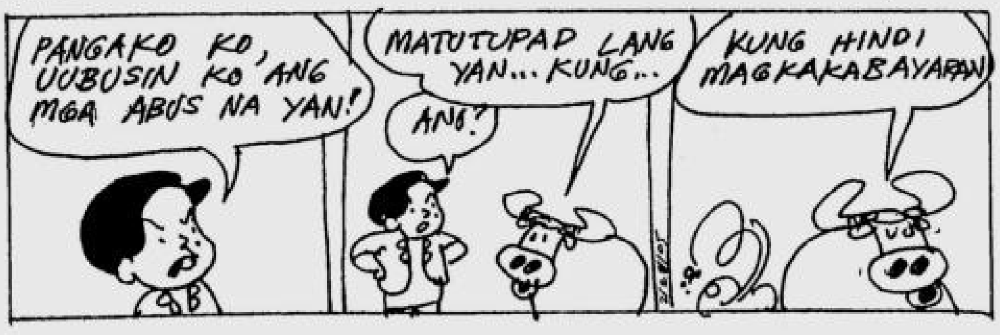
Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	I	N	■	S	C	A	B	■	F	I	R	S	T
A	R	T	E	■	E	R	N	E	■	A	D	E	L	A
I	C	E	R	■	A	O	N	E	■	B	I	P	O	D
T	H	R	O	W	N	F	O	R	A	L	O	O	P	■
■	■	■	■	A	C	T	■	■	S	E	T	■	■	■
H	A	M	B	L	E	■	M	E	T	S	■	M	A	P
O	R	E	A	D	■	T	A	C	O	■	H	E	R	O
A	T	A	L	O	S	S	F	O	R	W	O	R	D	S
S	I	N	F	■	T	A	I	L	■	R	A	C	E	S
T	E	Y	■	S	A	R	A	■	I	O	D	I	N	E
■	■	■	S	I	S	■	■	A	N	N	■	■	■	■
■	C	A	U	G	H	T	O	F	F	G	U	A	R	D
H	U	N	A	N	■	E	R	T	E	■	T	R	I	O
A	B	O	V	E	■	A	C	E	S	■	A	L	I	T
M	A	N	E	T	■	M	A	R	T	■	H	O	S	E

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved
2/24/05

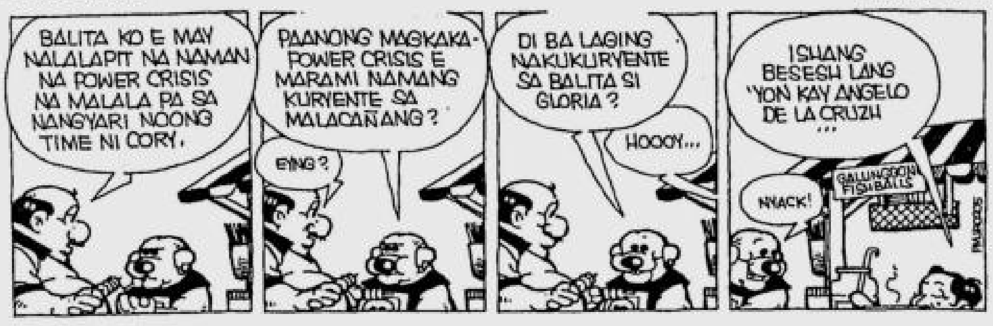
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PANGAKO KO, UUBUSIN KO ANG MGA ABUS NA YAN!
ANG?
MATUTUPAD LANG YAN... KUNG...
KUNG HINDI MAGKAKABAYARAN

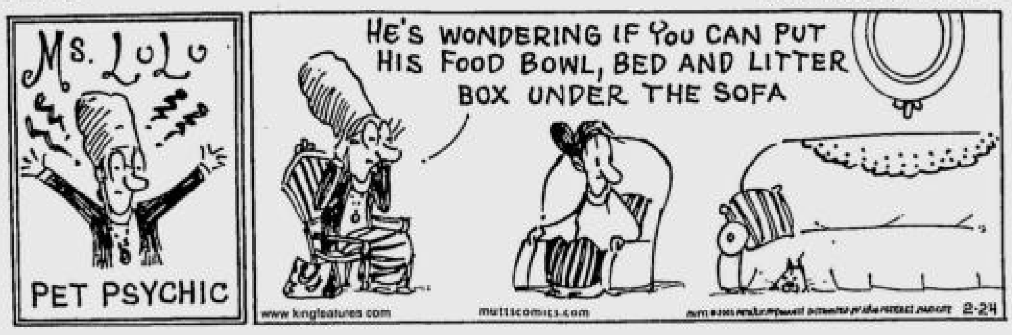
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BALITA KO E MAY NALALAPIT NA NAMAN NA POWER CRISIS NA MALALA PA SA NANGYARI NOONG TIME NI CORY.
PAANONG MAGKAKA-POWER CRISIS E MARAMI NAMANG KURYENTE SA MALACAÑANG?
EYNG?
DI BA LAGING NAKUKURYENTE SA BALITA SI GLORIA?
HOOOY...
ISHANG BESESH LANG 'YON KAY ANGELO DE LA CRUZH ...
NYACK!
GALUNGGONG FISHBALLS

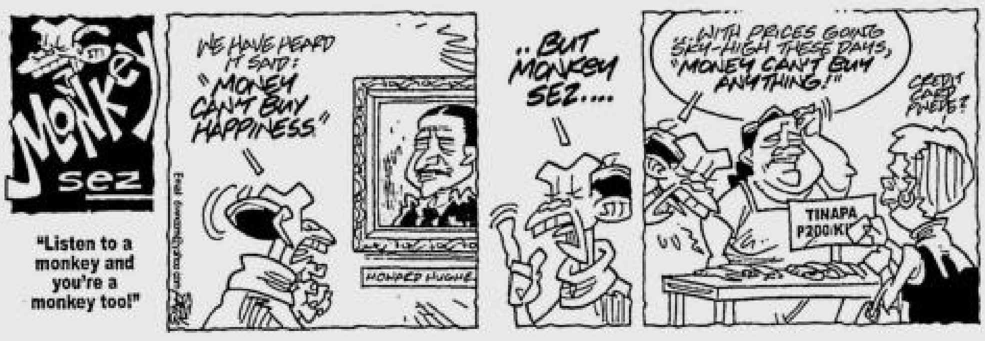
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MS. LULU
PET PSYCHIC
HE'S WONDERING IF YOU CAN PUT HIS FOOD BOWL, BED AND LITTER BOX UNDER THE SOFA
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
2-24

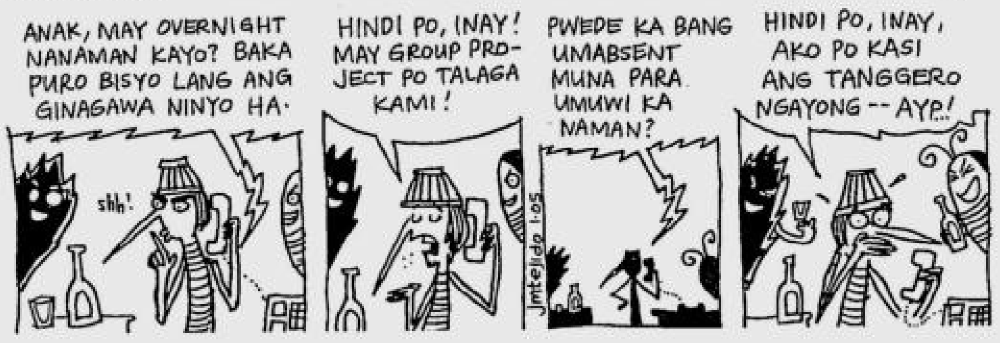
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MONKEY sez
"Listen to a monkey and you're a monkey too!"
WE HAVE HEARD IT SAID: "MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS"
HOWARD HUGHES
..BUT MONKEY SEZ....
...WITH PRICES GOING SKY-HIGH THESE DAYS, "MONEY CAN'T BUY ANYTHING!"
CREDIT CARD PWEDE?
TINAPA P200/K

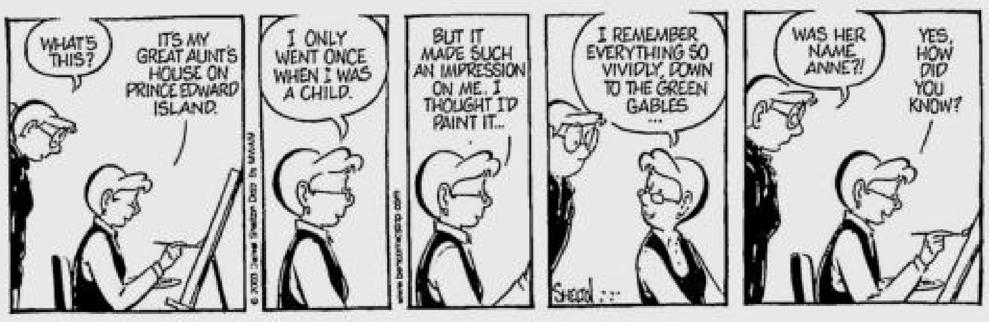
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANAK, MAY OVERNIGHT NANAMAN KAYO? BAKA PURO BISYO LANG ANG GINAGAWA NINYO HA.
shh!
HINDI PO, INAY! MAY GROUP PROJECT PO TALAGA KAMI!
PWEDE KA BANG UMABSENT MUNA PARA UMUWI KA NAMAN?
HINDI PO, INAY, AKO PO KASI ANG TANGGERO NGAYONG --AYP!

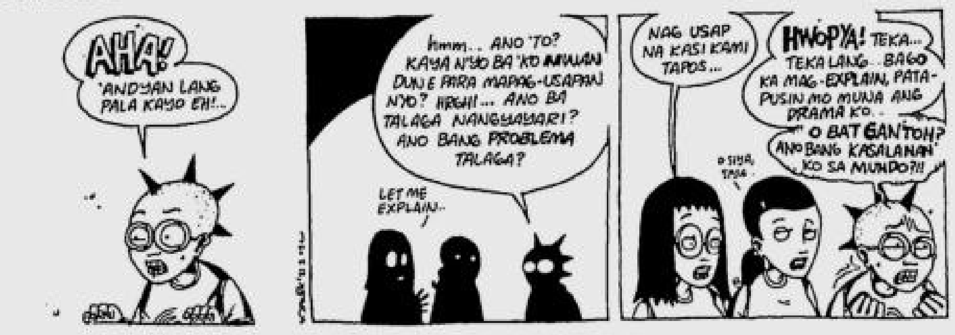
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S MY GREAT AUNT'S HOUSE ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.
I ONLY WENT ONCE WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
BUT IT MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSION ON ME, I THOUGHT I'D PAINT IT...
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING SO VIVIDLY, DOWN TO THE GREEN GABLES ...
WAS HER NAME ANNE?!
YES, HOW DID YOU KNOW?

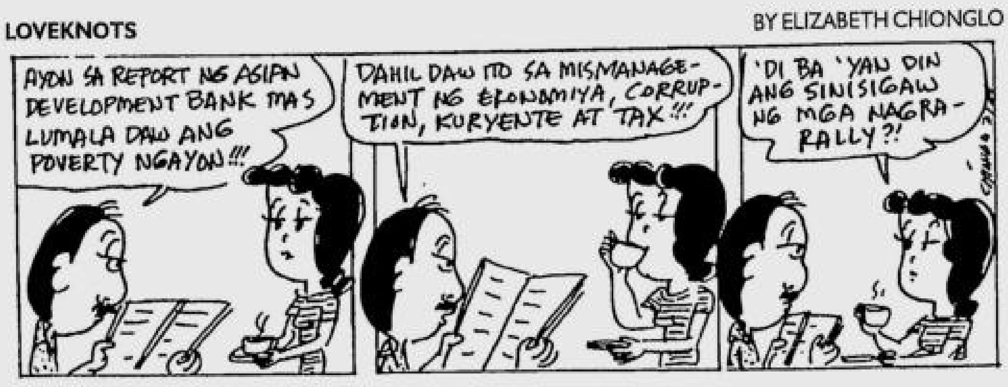
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AHA! 'ANDYAN LANG PALA KAYO EH!..
hmm... ANO 'TO? KAYA N'YO BA 'KO INIWAN DUN E PARA MAPAG-USAPAN N'YO? HRGH!... ANO BA TALAGA NANGYAYARI? ANO BANG PROBLEMA TALAGA?
LET ME EXPLAIN..
NAG USAP NA KASI KAMI TAPOS...
HWOPYA! TEKA... TEKA LANG.. BAGO KA MAG-EXPLAIN, PATAPUSIN MO MUNA ANG DRAMA KO..
O BAT GAN'TOH? ANO BANG KASALANAN KO SA MUNDO?!!

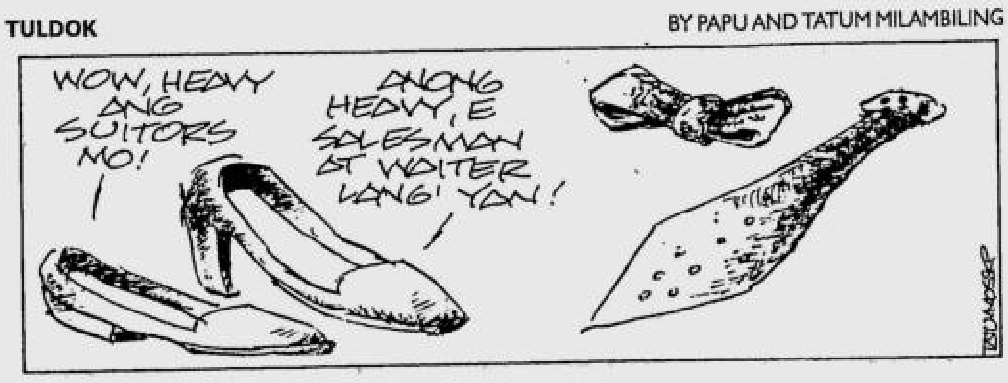
LOVEKNOTS

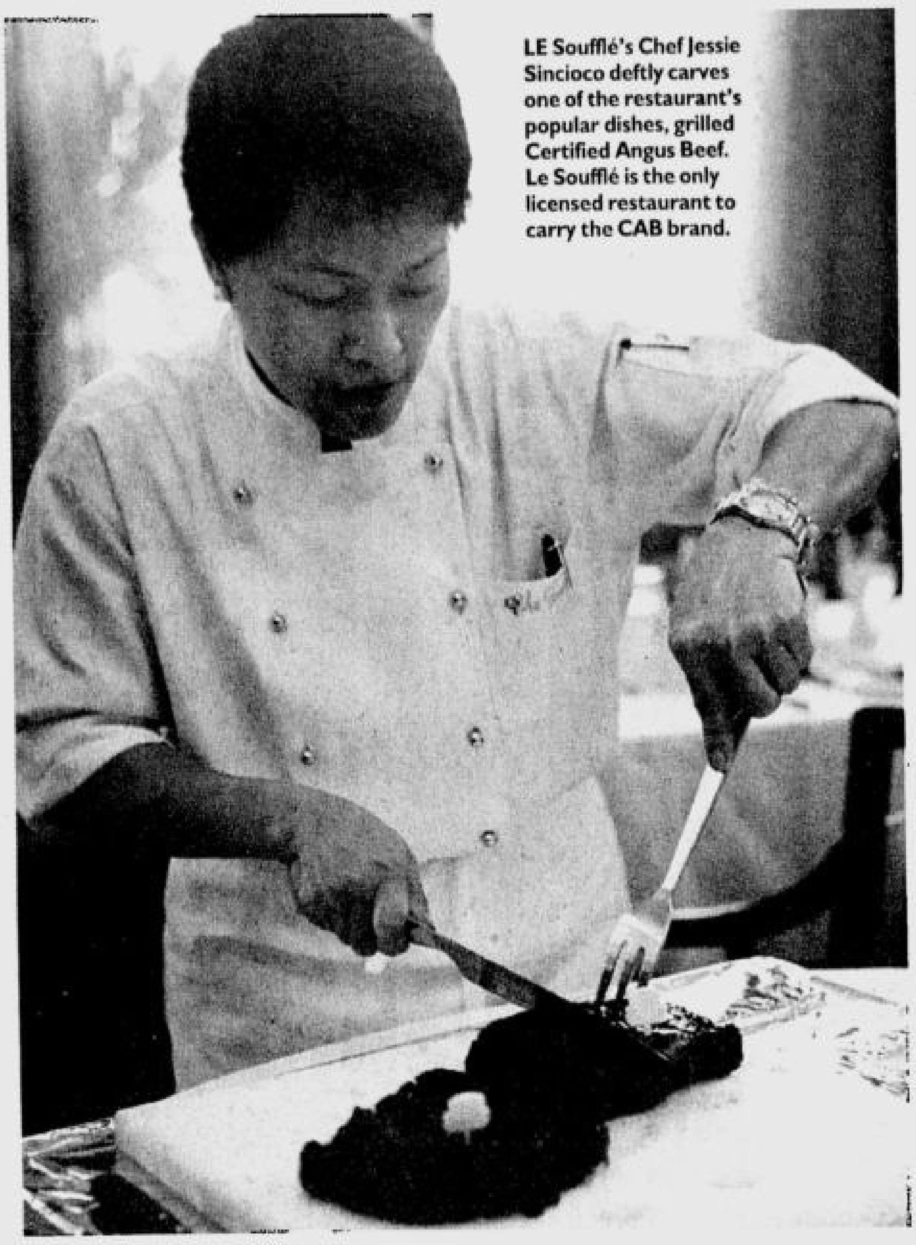
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AYON SA REPORT NG ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MAS LUMALA DAW ANG POVERTY NGAYON!!!
DAHIL DAW ITO SA MISMANAGEMENT NG EKONOMIYA, CORRUPTION, KURYENTE AT TAX!!!
'DI BA 'YAN DIN ANG SINISIGAW NG MGA NAGRA-RALLY?!

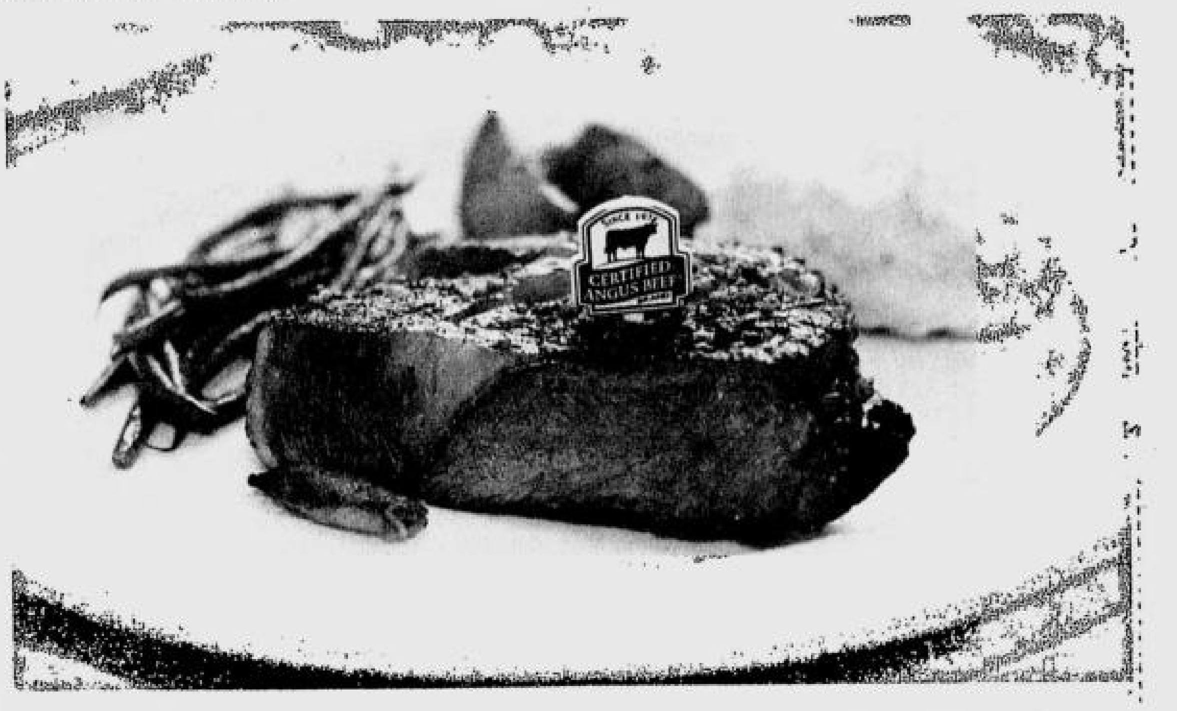
TULDOK

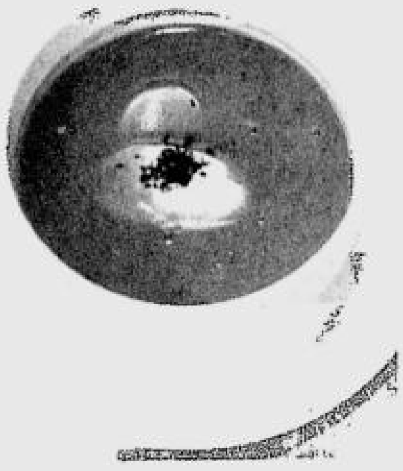
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, HEAVY ANG SUITORS MO!
ANONG HEAVY, E SOLESMAN AT WAITER LANG 'YAN!



LE Soufflé's Chef Jessie Sincioco deftly carves one of the restaurant's popular dishes, grilled Certified Angus Beef. Le Soufflé is the only licensed restaurant to carry the CAB brand.





GRILLED Certified Angus Beef Cow Girl Steak with Lyonnaise Buttered French Beans, Gratin and Mashed Potato (above); Creamy Lobster Bisque with Fish Sauce (left)

Mad about angus

From page C1

"Certified Angus Beef." Only the USDA, a third party and impartial organization, monitors and certifies the beef as CAB quality.

Shimojima says this ensures the brand's consistency in quality that is expected from the gourmet beef.

To qualify for CAB standards, for instance, the beef must have modest (USDA Middle Choice) or higher marbling degree. Roughly 30 percent of USDA Choice carcasses contain such high degree of marbling.

"Plentiful marbling, which must be finely textured, helps [bring out the beef's] outstanding flavor," Shimojima says. Coarse marbling is said to "negatively influence palatability" of the beef.

The CAB's higher marbling also assures that the meat remains tender and juicy even when cooked at high temperatures.

He adds that since US cattle are fed corn, not grass, the marble is white. The beta-carotene in grass is responsible for the yellow-tint marbling of grass-fed cattle, such as those found in Australia. Taste-wise, CAB's is sweeter, with none of the "grassy" aftertaste of other angus beef.

Strict standards

CAB adheres to strict standards based on marbling, maturity and leanness. The CAB must be from the "A" maturity range, the youngest classification for beef at less than 30 months.

"The younger the beef, the better. It is juicier, more tender and flavorful," Shimojima says.

USDA Prime and Choice grades, two of the highest beef grades in the market today, can include "B" maturity cattle. Those are cattle harvested at 30-42 months of age, which Shimojima dismisses as the "not so tender" variety. Only beef with superior tenderness, color and pleasing texture can earn the CAB name, he says.

"Integrity is built in every pack. The CAB brand is the only one that tracks every pound of meat from when it is initially identified until it is sold to the consumers to ensure they get genuine CAB products," Shimojima says.

Superior muscling that eliminates dairy influence is said to deliver a "uniform plate presentation," and zero blood spots or dark cutters ensure the brand's consistent flavor and appearance as well.

In the Philippines, CAB is exclusively distributed by Werdenberg Int'l. Co. Since its introduction in the early 1990s, Shimojima says the demand for the CAB brand in the country has grown tremendously, delivering over 380,000 pounds prime beef last year.

As a loyal client and consistent buyer of CAB, consuming a whopping 500 kg a month of tenderloin alone, Le Soufflé restaurants are the first and only licensed establishment to carry the CAB brand, says Goldie San Luis, key accounts manager of Werdenberg.

"Not all restaurants can use CAB on their menu. They have to be licensed. Le Soufflé has been exclusively cooking CAB right from the start," San Luis says.

Through Le Soufflé's "CAB Mouthwatering" campaign, Shimojima hopes to enlighten Filipinos on superior angus beef. Indeed, not all angus are made equal.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Gourmet Classes with Chef Dennis Hipolito
#137 9th Street corner Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City
About Chef Dennis Dean's List graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY/Food Stylist/* Owner of Joconde Cakes/* Took over classes from the Famed Gourmet, Maur Aquino Lichauco in New Manila/*Trained under the tutelage of World Pastry Cup Champion En-Ming Hsu of the Ritz Carlton Chicago (a Four Seasons Hotel) Dan Budd of Park Avenue Café Chicago, Cake Stylist- Betty Van Norstrand, Food StylistDelores Custer and other instructors in the Philippines
March 5, 2005: OLD TIME FAVORITE DESSERTS (Simply Homey and Sinful) NEW CLASS Strawberry Shortcake Torte, Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce, BRUUN STYLE Butter Cake, Mango Buttercream Torte, Buttery Cornflake Cookies-P1600
March 12, 2005: DEATH BY CHOCOLATE (Decadent and Comforting Chocolate Desserts) NEW CLASS Chocolate Dome, Chocolate Marquise, Death by Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Pots de Crème, Butterscotch Cake with Milk Chocolate Chunks P1600 (Callebaut Chocolates are Used in the Class)
March 19, 2005: JUST DESSERTS (Sweet Comforting Desserts) NEW CLASS Portugese Egg Tarts, Peach and Blueberry Loaf Cake, Heavenly Fudge Cake, Sinful Butter Cookies with Oreos and Chocolate, Spanish Caramel Cookies (Alfajores)-P1600
*CLASSES ARE: 1:00PM-4:30PM, (Limited Seats Available)
*Classes include: Ingredients, Recipe Hand Outs, and Product Shares
*For Inquiries and Reservations: **Please call or text 0917-8486656** or **email us at gourmetpastry@aol.com.** LOOK for **GIRARD** or **YVETTE.**

PARE! BOGCHI NA TAYO!!!
Isip ka kung saan tayo! Basta kailangan ko din mag-mall!
Ano ba feel mo?
Hmmmm..... La Paz Batchoy! o burger!... Thai barbecue!... tempura!....
Layo 'ata nun ah...
'Tsaka kailangan ko rin tumingin ng hiking shoes...
Okey, tara na sa...
...and flowers para kay sweetheart...
Ok, mall nga..
Pati na motherboard para sa computer ko...
Ah ok, so...
Kailangan din ng bagong dog collar ni Brownie...
Ano ba talaga?! Saan naman natin hahanapin lahat yan?
Pare! Sa DPC YELLOW PAGES! Nanduon ang mga hinahanap ko!
OKAY OKAY! SO SAAN BA TAYO TALAGA KAKAIN?!!
Sa plato, op kors!
Lahat sila dito nakalista!
DPC
YELLOW PAGES
The original search engine.
2004-2005 COTABATO TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 NEGROS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 NORTH LUZON TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
HOUSEHOLD & BUSINESS
COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL
2004-2005 METRO SUBURBAN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 CEBU TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
2004-2005 DAVAO TELEPHONE

HEAD OFFICE: 16th Floor DPC Place, 2322 Chino Roces Ave. Ext. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.), Makati City Tel. 889-8601 • Fax 889-8504 Sales Hotlines: 889-8501 • 889-8502 • 889-8503
CEBU OFFICE: 14th Floor ALAI-FGU Bldg., Mindanao Avenue cor. Biliran Road, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City Tels. (032)232-8601 to 02 • 234-1232 Fax (032)234-2011

Make better choices in 2005

THIS year make better choices like healthier foods and educational and informative reading materials and television programs.

Some of the better choices are:

· Watch documentary shows on TV to expand the mind. But don't spend all your free time sitting on the couch and watching TV shows, even if they are educational. Go out and do some outdoor activities that will help you keep fit.

· Pack your own healthful lunch instead of eating out. Most of the time, meals, especially if they are from fast food places, are packed with sodium, sugar and fat. They also mean additional expense.

· Take a yogurt, instead of coffee, break. Low-fat, plain or flavored yogurt is a simple, delicious way to good health. Microorganisms in yogurt help maintain intestinal balance and strengthen the body's defenses against diseases.

· Steam vegetables to get the most out of them. Essential nutrients and flavors are preserved by steaming. Make vegetables more attractive, particularly for kids, by cutting them into interesting shapes and mixing different colors together.

· Make your fitness regimen fun. For instance, get your favorite compact disc of dance music and move your body to the beat whether you are alone or with a partner.

· Choose healthy but fun foods like Nestlé Ice Cream. The "Better For You" seal on the lid of every pack of Nestlé Ice Cream guarantees 10 percent of a person's recommended energy and nutrient intake (RENI) of calcium, a mineral needed for strong bones and teeth.

Nestlé Ice Cream is available in supermarkets nationwide.

Mango
Nestlé
Ice Cream
Chocolate
Ube

Chocolate collection

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Feb. 25—Reggie's Chocolate Collection '04: The Best Chocolate Eclair, Chocolate Dome Cake with White Chocolate and Vanilla Buttercream, Old Fashioned Moist Chocolate Cake with Custard Sauce, Decadent Chocolate with Caramel Sauce, Sinful Chocolate Soufflé

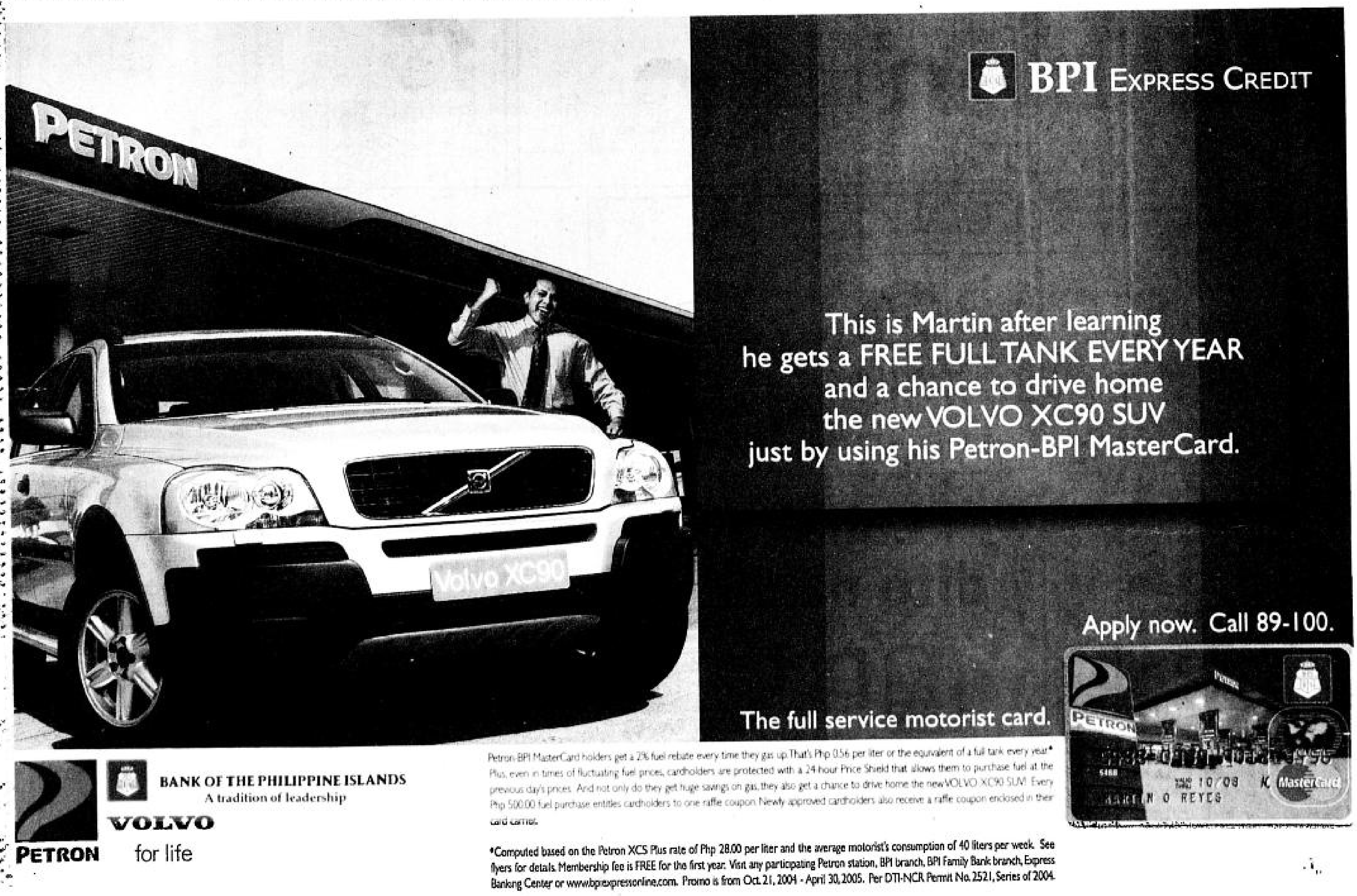
Feb. 26—Tapa, Tocino, atbp.: Say goodbye to all those preservatives and make your own (all new): Tapa 3 Kinds (Rib-eye *a la Pobre*, Sirloin Sukiyaki, Spicy Sirloin); Tocino 3 Kinds (Chicken & Maple, Pork and Honey, Oriental Pork); *Daing na Bangus* with Herbs, Citrus and Garlic; Delicious Tinapa Rice

Feb. 28—Japanese Rice Toppings: Best Ever Beef Bowl, Katsudon, Oyako Don, Unaju, Katsu Curry, Tori Zosui (Japanese-style Chicken Risotto)

March 2—Breadmaking for Dummies (hands-on, all new): Raisin, Garlic, Onion and Parmigiano, Honey, Walnut, Chocolate, and Delicious Brown Bread

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, or 0917-8399888.

Multiply love by the power of two.
Get 2 for the price of 1
Hurry! Limited stocks only.
Cool Mint LISTERINE POCKETPAKS
Kill the germs. Feel the clean.
Anytime. Anywhere.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 143, series of 2005.
Available at leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.



BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
This is Martin after learning he gets a FREE FULL TANK EVERY YEAR and a chance to drive home the new VOLVO XC90 SUV just by using his Petron-BPI MasterCard.
Apply now. Call 89-100.
The full service motorist card.

Petron-BPI MasterCard holders get a 2% fuel rebate every time they gas up. That's Php 0.56 per liter or the equivalent of a full tank every year.* Plus, even in times of fluctuating fuel prices, cardholders are protected with a 24-hour Price Shield that allows them to purchase fuel at the previous day's prices. And not only do they get huge savings on gas, they also get a chance to drive home the new VOLVO XC90 SUV! Every Php 500.00 fuel purchase entitles cardholders to one raffle coupon. Newly approved cardholders also receive a raffle coupon enclosed in their card carrier.

*Computed based on the Petron XCS Plus rate of Php 28.00 per liter and the average motorist's consumption of 40 liters per week. See flyers for details. Membership fee is FREE for the first year. Visit any participating Petron station, BPI branch, BPI Family Bank branch, Express Banking Center or www.bpiexpressonline.com. Promo is from Oct. 21, 2004 - April 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2521, Series of 2004.

PETRON
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership
VOLVO
for life

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SMOKED Tanguingue Burong Santol Salad in Makopa Basket

Cooking for country's honor

Wherever he goes, chef Ron Bilaro proudly proclaims he is a Filipino

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

CHICAGO-BASED Filipino chef Ron Bilaro is in Manila for a much-needed, though short, vacation.

Bilaro, who works as assistant to some of Chicago's top chefs, as well as personal chef to Chicago's corporate families, comes home once in a while, but this particular visit, he says, is so far the most memorable and important.

Bilaro is providing his culinary services to Karangalan Benefit Cocktails Feb. 27, 6-8 p.m., at Restaurant 9501, 14/F of the ELJ Communications Center, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Street, Quezon City. Karangalan, which means honor or dignity, is an annual conference/festival that charts new "visions" for the country's future from a non-governmental standpoint.

Showcase

Bilaro will showcase his culinary expertise by concocting a fusion of Asian and Western dishes ranging from appetizer to dessert, complemented with the most appropriate wines.

Proceeds of the cocktail-for-a-cause, which costs about P3,000 per person, will fund noteworthy projects of Karangalan, including an Education Summit to be held in April.

"I often watch Bantay Bata and TV Patrol through TFC (ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel) in Chicago and it breaks my heart to see innocent lives suffer. I know I can't change the world... but if I can make a difference with one, that is a good start," Bilaro says.

When he arrived in Manila he immediately called Marni Ocampo, a member of the organizing committee of Karangalan, and offered to help in any way he can.

"What's nice with chef Ron, wherever he goes he's always proud to say he's a Filipino. And he knows, as a chef, he can contribute something worthwhile to his fellow humans," says Panjee Gonzalez-Lopez, another Karangalan organizing committee member.

Bilaro offers his services to the Karangalan initiative because he believes the Filipino has everything needed to move the country forward.

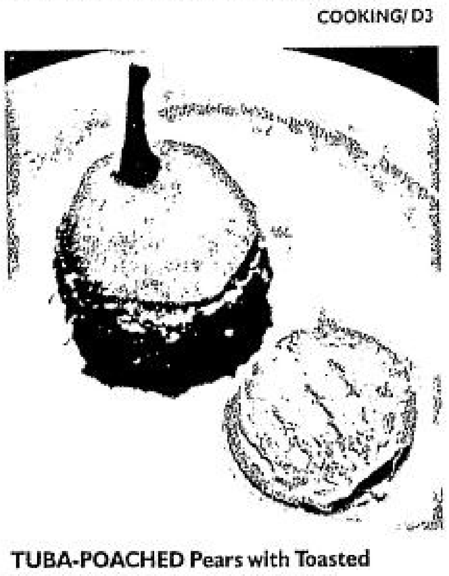
Inspiration

"I'd like to somehow inspire younger Filipinos and show them they can be anything they want to be and encourage other Filipino-Americans to someday return to their homeland and pay it forward," Bilaro says.

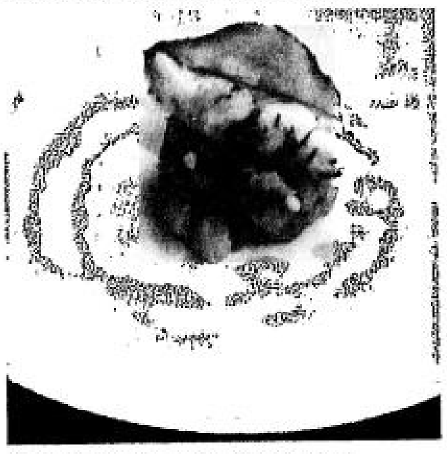
Bilaro was born in Pasig and finished high school at the Pasig Catholic College. He studied at Letran and Maryknoll College (now Miriam) before he moved to the West Coast of the United States where he lived for many years.

He joined United Airlines and became a flight attendant before deciding he really want-

COOKING/ D3



TUBA-POACHED Pears with Toasted Pistachio, Coconut, Honey, Spiced Mascarpone and Avocado Ice Cream



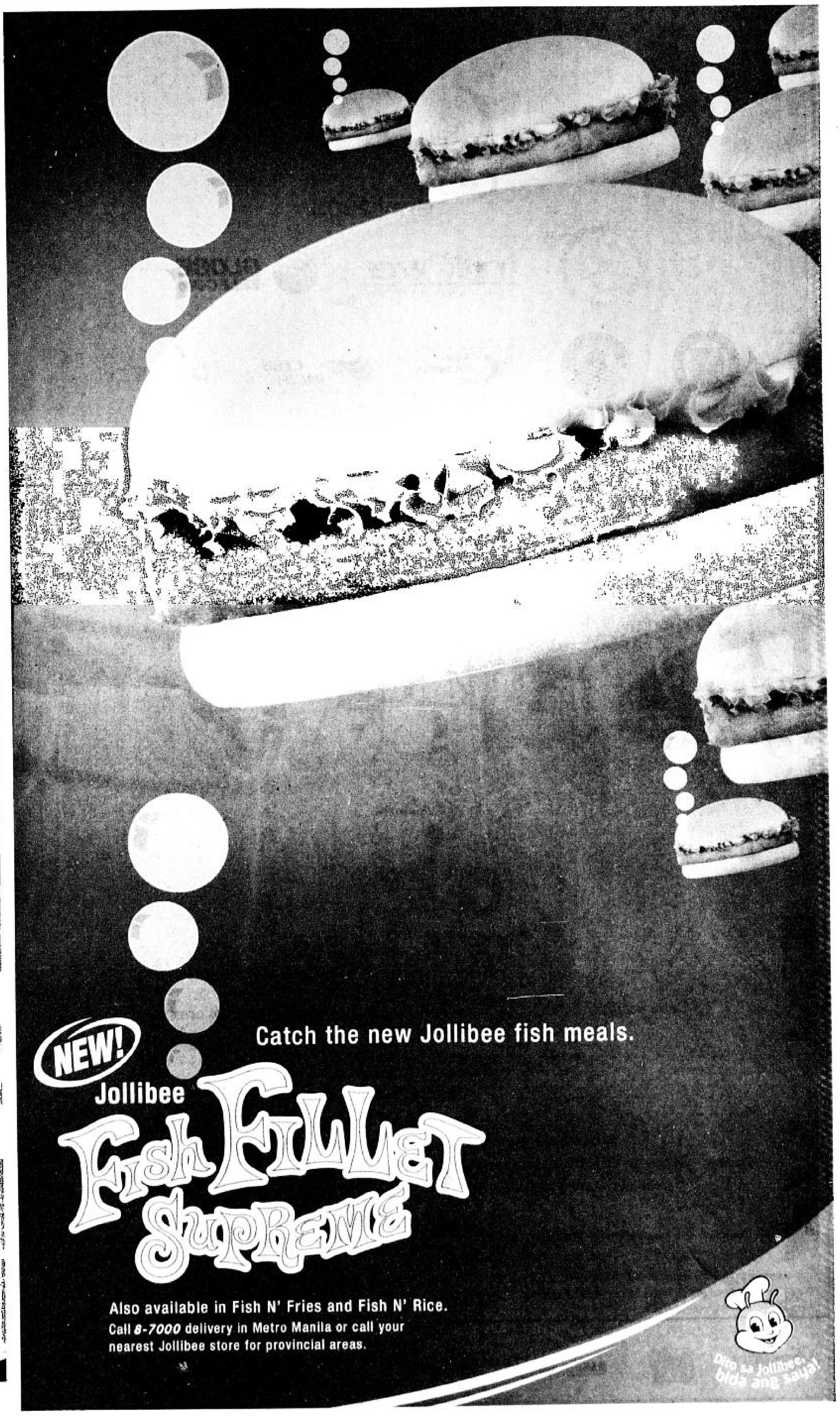
GRILLED Squid on Top of Cinnamon-Accented Roasted Squash with Pine Nuts

11th Annual Shape Up Philippines **SUPER** promo:

Sign up and get 3 FREE Butt-Firming Treatments!

Marie France Bodyline

Call 894-BODY now!



Catch the new Jollibee fish meals.

NEW! Jollibee Fish Fillet Supreme

Also available in Fish N' Fries and Fish N' Rice.
Call 8-7000 delivery in Metro Manila or call your nearest Jollibee store for provincial areas.

Dito sa Jollibee, bida ang saya!

E-mail warns hotel guests of new scam

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

A WARNING is being circulated by e-mail about phone callers demanding cash from hotel guests, mostly *balikbayans*, by making them withdraw from automated teller machines (ATM).

We thought it was nothing more than spam until we heard just the other day three complaints aired over Radio Mindanao Network through a phone patch with a radio station in New Jersey. The hotel guests, according to the radio anchorpersons, complained that they received calls from a man that threatened their lives unless they gave him cash.

The incidents supposedly happened in three different hotels and an apartment-hotel.

"It's actually an old racket," our editor informed us and forwarded to us a copy of an e-mail dated March 2004 relating exactly the same modus operandi employed by the con men on the recent victims.

Here are parts of that e-mail written by a former guest of a hotel on Roxas Boulevard. The e-mail starts with the words of the con man who just found out that his intended victims had requested to be transferred to another room.

"*Ano kamo? Gusto nyong mag* (room) transfer? *Kahit saan kayo, 'di kayo ligtas. Konting tulong lang,*" the caller warned us. So I asked him what kind of help. He then replied, money.

"I asked him again, 'How much?' He said P50,000. So I told him we didn't have that amount. He then started to threaten us... His exact words (were): '*Hija mag* cooperate *ka na. Hawak na namin ang buong* hotel. Abu Sayyaf *ito*.

"He then asked to talk (to my companion) who... was also asked to give P50,000. The threats over the phone continued for almost an hour aside from text messages. She (the companion) was (told) that if we did have the P50,000, we (should) put it in an envelope and give it to the front desk. But if we didn't have (the amount), it would have to be P2,000 plus our cell phones and deliver (them to the) 7-Eleven store on Vito Cruz."

'Balikbayans' recounted on a radio program the scare they had during their visit to the Philippines

The e-mail further recounted the horrors that the victims suffered.

True or not, the authorities should assure the public, instead of being silent about the reported cases, that all security measures are in place. One of the latest incidents is recorded in the blotter of the San Juan police.

Sniffing dog's fetish

Cocoy Lizardo (cocoy@8292media.net) is warning consumers not to carry bottled water in places where there are sniffing dogs. You never can tell if you will encounter the same sniffing dog that lunged for his bottled water when he was walking in a shopping mall. The dog barely missed his face, he says.

Lizardo adds, "The guard with the dog was apologetic and informed me that the dog was addicted to mineral water bottles! No dog addicted to mineral water bottles must be in a busy place. Hope that this will serve as a warning to consumers and for mall administrators to know the background of the dogs they deploy in their premises."

Praises

A satisfied customer is all praises for the manager of Century Seafood Restaurant. She wrote to us: "We were bothered by the smoke coming from cigarette-smoking customers seated near our table. When we couldn't stand it anymore, we complained to the waiter. This prompted the manager to talk to the smokers and explain to them the no-smoking policy of the restaurant. Thanks to the manager, the old smokers obliged without any trouble.

"I cannot say the same for the owners of other restaurants, particularly (one) in Remedios, Malate, where non-smoking diners are bothered by smokers. Whatever happened to the law (prohibiting smoking) in public places? These establishments don't even have No Smoking signs in their premises. Paging Mayor Atienza!"

In celebration of

Cebu Business Month 2005

CEBU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY 1913
innove COMMUNICATIONS
GLOBE TELECOM
PROVINCE OF CEBU OFFICIAL SEAL
OFFICIAL SEAL CITY OF CEBU
CEBU HOLDINGS INC. AN AFFILIATE OF AYALA LAND, INC.
CEBU PACIFIC
SOUTHWALL MACKMAYER MEDIA

invite you to

"Cebu, More Than The Usual..." Expo

February 24 - 26, 2005
Ayala Mall, lower level, Glorietta 3

Photos by Mr. Daniel Carpenter

Find out about

CEBU! BIYAHE MUNA

and
Cebu Pacific's 2 nights / 3 days value packed vacations at best prices
valid from March - August, 2005.

Tour Packages inclusive of Roundtrip Airfare Manila-Cebu-Manila (Cebu Pacific) • Accommodation on Twin Share • Daily Breakfast Roundtrip Airport Transfers • Special Sightseeing or Adventure Tour • Ferry Tickets to Island Destinations • Land and Boat Transfers English Speaking Tour Guide • Entrance Fees for Tours*

Be at the opening at 5pm today at the Glorietta Activity Center
featuring "Garbo sa Sugbu", a variety show directed by Junjet Primor, showcasing Cebuano artistry in song, dance and music. Plus the collection of Philip Rodriguez, Cebu's Fashion Czar.

Visit the Expo and buy various products from the island province. Or order the famous Cebu lechon for the weekend.

*Inquire from Cebu Pacific at **(02) 636-4938** or **(02) 687-5270** or Cebu Assn. of Tour Operators at **(032) 417-2247** to **49** or **(032) 253-6225***
*Fax No. **(032) 234-4363** or **(032) 253-0623** | **E-Mail: inbound@southwind-online.com or mall@southwind-online.com***

* exclusive of taxes, insurance, and fuel charge

INQUIRER
CEBU DAILY NEWS
MANILA BULLETIN
SUN STAR
Islands Souvenirs
Plantation Bay
AYALA CENTER Lovemall!
LA

Proper storage will keep produce fresh longer

PEOPLE'S grocery and storage habits may be causing fresh produce like fruits and vegetables to spoil prematurely.

To minimize wastage, GLAD, maker of wraps and bags, offers some helpful tips:

Stick to the list. Before going to the grocery, list down all the items you need.

Get only what you need. Don't buy too many fruits and vegetables of the same kind. They may just remain unused until they go bad.

Don't sacrifice quality for a little saving. When going to the market, resist buying discounted but damaged produce.

Segregate. Some fruits and vegetables should not be kept together in the fridge to keep them fresh longer. Ethylene gas created by some fresh produce can cause other fruits and vegetables to ripen and decay or to wilt. Ethylene producers include apples, ripening bananas, grapes, mangoes, melons, mushrooms, okra, papayas, peaches, peppers, pineapple, and tomatoes. On the other hand, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, potatoes, romaine lettuce, squash, sweet potatoes and watercress are ethylene-sensitive.

Use GLAD FreshProtect Storage Bags. The balance of carbon dioxide and oxygen levels inside the bag is maintained keeping fruits and vegetables fresh longer.

Avoid overcrowding. Stuffing so many things in the refrigerator causes the appliance to overwork and prevents cool air from properly circulating. This will lead to premature spoilage. Put fruits and vegetables in separate GLAD FreshProtect Bags to help keep food fresh longer. The bags also keep the fridge neat and organized by eliminating the need for bulky containers.

Next time you go shopping, make sure that what you buy will end up on the dinner table, not the trash bin. Store food items properly by using GLAD FreshProtect Storage bags, which are available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

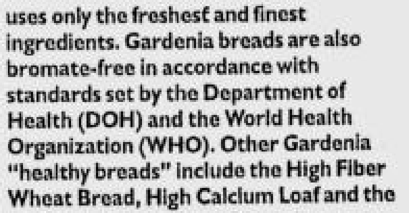
Cooking, baking classes

LEARN new dishes from experts.

The San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's Culinary Class Series will tackle Thai cuisine in "Flavors of Thailand" with Chariya Thaikupt, March 8; and "Creative Bread Baking" with chef Bubbles Lerias, March 11.

Classes are held 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legazpi corner Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig. A minimal fee of P700 will be charged.

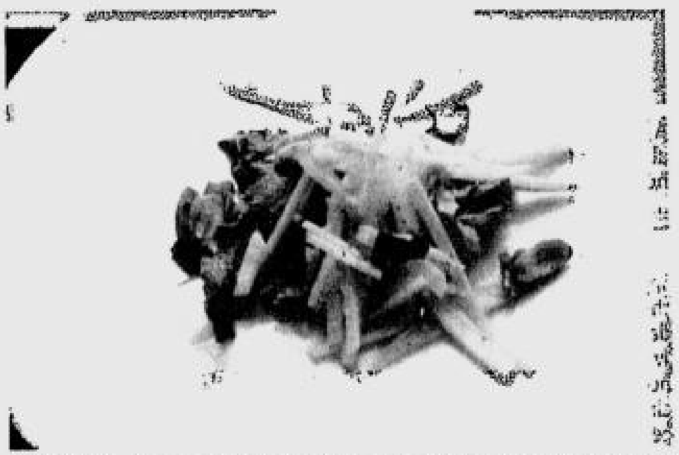
Early reservation and payment are required. Call 6719876 local 402, 2771, 404 and 405. Only limited slots available!



TWO-IN-ONE
Gardenia Philippines, the country's leading bread maker, has combined two healthy natural ingredients in its Carrot-Raisin Loaf. Vitamin A-enriched, the bread uses only the freshest and finest ingredients. Gardenia breads are also bromate-free in accordance with standards set by the Department of Health (DOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Other Gardenia "healthy breads" include the High Fiber Wheat Bread, High Calcium Loaf and the 5-Grain Loaf.

ASSORTED Cheeses and Nuts

FRUIT and Kesong Puti Platter


PIPINO, Singkamas and Green Mango Salad with Dalandan-Honey Vinaigrette

Cooking for country's honor

From page D1

ed a career in the culinary arts.

Bilaro graduated at the top of his class at the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago under Le Cordon Bleu. He then apprenticed as pastry chef at Rhapsody and trained under chef Gene Kato.

Though primarily a personal chef for Chicago's corporate families, he also works as sous chef to Art Smith, Oprah Winfrey's chef, from time to time.

Latest thing

"I have a set of clients that I cook dinner for on a regular basis," says Bilaro. "I do at least three to four big dinner parties for non-regular clients. At this time, personal 'cheffing' is considered one of the most in-demand professions in the United States."

Not surprisingly, Bilaro's specialty is Asian, but he also likes Latin cuisine so he does a lot of Asian and Latin fusion. Sometimes he does theme parties like Hawaiian, summer barbecue, Halloween or Margarita Night.

For the benefit cocktail, Bilaro will prepare at least two types of hors d'oeuvres, followed by a green salad. Main course will include beef, pork and seafood, like soft-shell crabs, crab cake with mango chutney, grilled cod with aioli sauce.

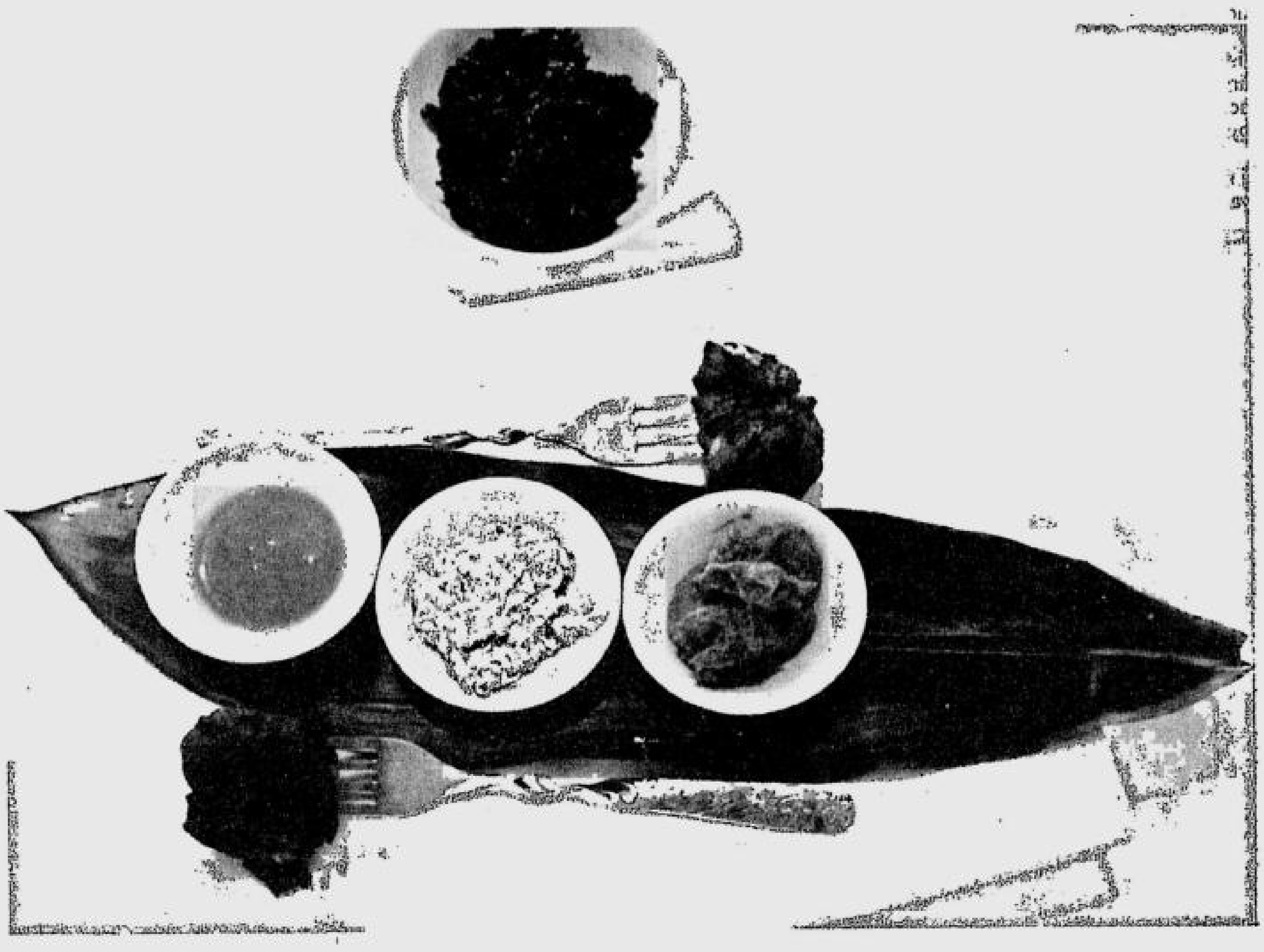
Desserts will include crème brulee, *kapeng barako* tiramisu mousse served in wanton spoon and Jello.

Last Tuesday, with the help of his assistant chef Brad Goodlaxson and 9501's Myrna Segismundo, Bilaro gave a sampling of specialties that he might also serve during the benefit cocktail.

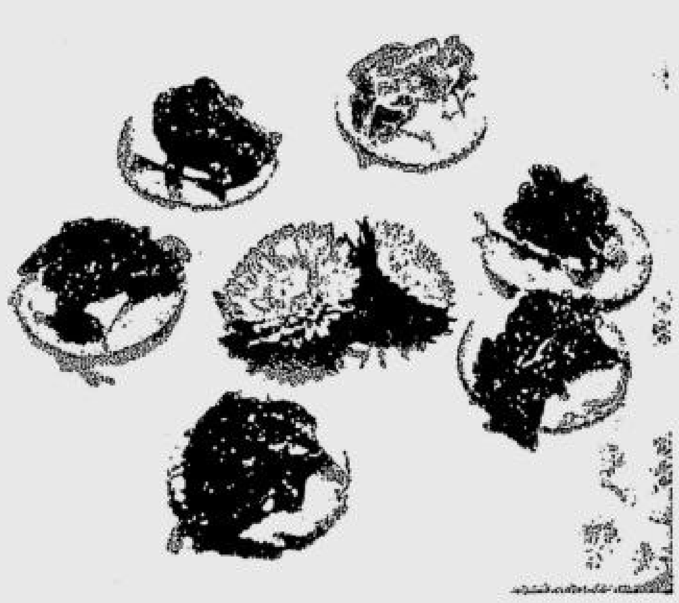
Bilaro prepared Smoked Tanguingue Burong Santol Salad in Makopa Basket; Flattened Pan de Sal Crostini of Caramelized Onions; Pipino, Singkamas and Green Mango Salad with Dalandan-Honey Vinaigrette; Cinnamon-accented Roasted Kalabasa with Pine Nuts and Grilled Squid; Degustation of Beef and Pork Sun-dried Tomato Feta, Roasted Eggplant Tahini and Wasabi Soy; and Tuba-poached Pears with Toasted Pistachio, Coconut, Honey, Spiced Mascarpone and Avocado Ice Cream.

For inquiries on the benefit cocktail, call 0919-2458016 or e-mail magisip@yahoo.com.

CHICAGO-BASED Filipino chef Ron Bilaro


DEGUSTATION of Beef and Pork with three kinds of sauces: Sun-dried Tomato Feta, Roasted Eggplant Tahini and Wasabi Soy

KARANGALAN'S organizing committee members: (standing) Olive Isidro and Marni Ocampo; (seated) 9501's Myrna Segismundo and Panjee Gonzalez-Lopez


FLATTENED Pan de Sal Crostini of Caramelized Onions

Scandinavian delights

DINING OUT

MANDARIN Oriental Manila presents Simply Scandinavian on Feb. 28-March 5 at the Captain's Bar. Featured specialties are Danish Roast Meat Salad with red onions, Apple and Prune-filled Spareribs, Boiled Veal with pickles in aspic, Danish Chicken Fricassee with mushrooms, Fried Salmon with dill creamed potatoes, Finnish Hot Pot with assorted meats, Braised Cabbage Roll with ground beef and rice, Danish chilled rice and almond pudding and Finnish Raspberry Pudding. Call 7508888.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Circles Event Cafe offers cold appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, pizzas, chicken samozas, beef quesadillas, dimsum, barbecue, pastries, ice cream and crepes. Utage, on the other hand, features Awabi Sakamushi, Sushi and Sashimi Moriawase, Tempura Moriawase, Teppan-Yaki Hireniku and Sukiyaki. Call 8138888.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel offers the Celebration Package, which includes a wide selection of menu items plus a party cake to complete the banquet spread with a round of fruit punch for all guests. Call 6898415/ 6898429/ 6387777.

THE COFFEE Bean and Tea Leaf presents White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake and Cherry Pistachio Cheesecake this month. Call 7576002.

BANGUS Restaurant features Bangus Salad, Grilled Bangus Belly with Sampaloc Candy Sauce and Crispy Kangkong, Garlic Mushroom stuffed with Bangus Sisig, Bangus Salpicao with fried camote, Tofu Steak with Bangus Sisig, Boneless Crispy Pata, Dinuguang Manok and Sinigang na Baka sa Bayabas. Bangus Restaurant is located at Chef's Avenue, 3/L Festival Supermall, Alabang. Call 8503514.

EASTWOOD City features Cheesecake, etc. near the Fuente Circle of City Walk I, and Fruitas at the 2/F City Walk II. Cheesecake, etc. offers sisig and schueblig sandwiches while Fruitas proffers healthy fruit mixes.

SAN MIG Pub and Restaurant celebrates the Rib Delicious Festival. Featured are grilled combinations such as chicken and ribs, shrimp and ribs, Family Combi Special and San Mig Feast Platter. They include coleslaw or homemade atchara and a choice from the bar's fusion sidings. Savor also baby back ribs and the prime ribs available in six, nine and 12 slabs. There is also the Ole Time Beef spare ribs. San Mig Pub is at the Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. Call 8420776/8073595.

Feb Night
of
Dinne
-
ashion
2005
at 8:00
Mall
Free, Cambio
Adult Wear from
to you by
BERT
news mag
In cooperation with :
RUSTANS, FASIO of ESSENCES, CONVERSE, PRINT TOWN & GOLD GYM
with special thanks to
Ayala Cinema, Shopwise,
Mark & Spencer, The Net Service Provider,
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sterling Group of Company & McDonald's
Copyright © VIMI Publishing House 2005

How to grill a perfect steak

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

> Timing is key, so read on for Reggie's timetable for rare, medium rare and well-done meat

MY HUSBAND and I love steaks. Can you give me a recipe that is easy to prepare?
ANNIE GOMEZ

Grilling the perfect steak: .

Charcoal grilling lends a wonderful flavor to steaks. Follow these charcoal grilling techniques whenever possible:

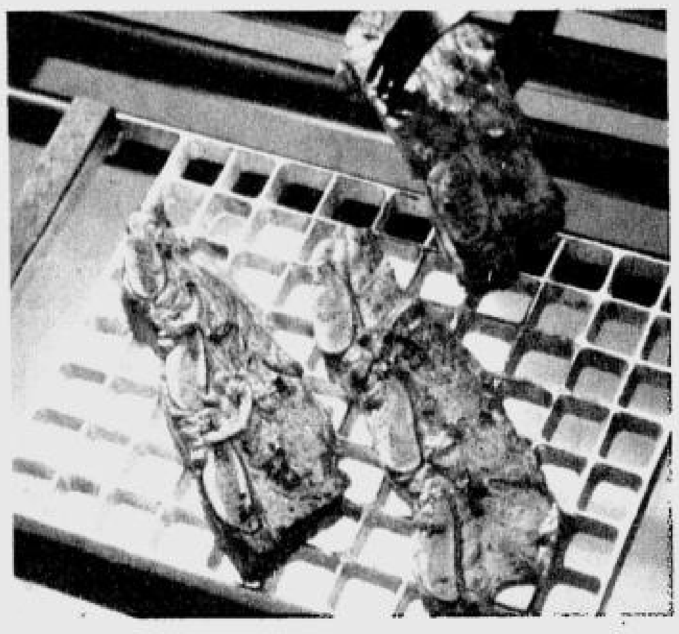
- Divide your pit into two sections, one portion with more coal than the other. What would be perfect is to have a distance of about 2-2 ½ inches of coal below your steak/grilling grate or plate. The other section should have a distance of about 3-3 ½ inches.
- Make sure that your coal has been going/pre-heated for 10 minutes before grilling. It must be very hot.
- Brush griller grate or plate with olive oil.
- After seasoning, lay steaks on the portion of the griller that has more coal. Leave steaks to turn to golden brown, approximately 30-40 seconds per side.
- Use tongs when grilling. Never use forks as piercing the meat will cause the loss of juices.
- Once the perfect steak color is achieved, move steaks to the cooler part of the grill. Leave to cook for desired doneness.
- The key to perfect steak is perfect timing! Use this timetable as a guide: For 1-inch steaks, total cooking time is 3 minutes (a minute and a half per side) for rare, 4 ½ minutes for medium rare, and 5-6 minutes for tapa, *ay* sorry, well done *pala*.

Cooking time may vary depending on the intensity of heat and the distance of the steak from it. Keep an eye on them.

The technique is tricky in the beginning but as you go along preparing your steaks this way you'll be able to judge its doneness just by the mere looks of it. Practice makes perfect!

When charcoal grilling is not possible, the next best thing is stovetop grilling or pan-frying.

- Pre-heat stove top griller or a thick frying pan (for this purpose, the thicker the better; I say cast iron at least) over high heat for approximately 5 minutes.
- Brush griller or pan with olive oil.
- Lay seasoned steaks on griller/pan. Lower heat to low and continue cooking following the same cooking time and instructions for charcoal grilling.



GRILLING to perfection is an art form.

More tips

- Perfect steak means perfect meat! The better the meat, the better the steak! Sad to say that quality comes at a price and no amount of proper grilling techniques will help if your meat is inferior.
- I like my steaks 3/4- to 1-inch thick with no more than sea salt/rock salt and freshly ground pepper. Depending on my mood, I sometimes add a bit of fresh rosemary and/or thyme.
- Season steaks just before grilling.
- My favorite steak cut is rib-eye, the cut with the most marbling. The more the marbling, the softer and more succulent the steak. Marbling means streaks of fat that run across the meat.
- My favorite steaks are Angus, US Prime Beef and, whenever I win the lotto, Kobe and Matsuzaka! An alternative would be Australian steaks or Australian cattle slaughtered in the Philippines. How I wish I could actually say local beef!
- My favorite stovetop griller—SMEG
- Thaw steaks in the refrigerator. Leaving it to thaw at room temperature makes the meat lose a lot of its juices. To serve steaks for lunch, transfer them to the refrigerator in the evening and take them out to season just before grilling.
- After grilling, leave meat to rest for 3-5 minutes to allow juices to relax. It also gives meat time to develop texture.
- My steak sources: Santis Deli for Angus and Australian steaks, prime beef for Australian cattle slaughtered locally at reasonable prices (Vinia Camacho-9265647). For bulk orders of over 10 kilos, PTC (Importers of U.S., Australian and Canadian Meat and Poultry—Vicky Choi (0917-5210523). If you want PTC meat but don't need 10 kilos, my school can accommodate your orders, a service PTC and I do for my students. The line includes US meat—Angus, Prime Beef and Kobe from Japan, etc. (Glen—9289296/6335162).

What are your favorite steak condiments? Sauces? Pepper Sauce?
LYKA DE GUZMAN

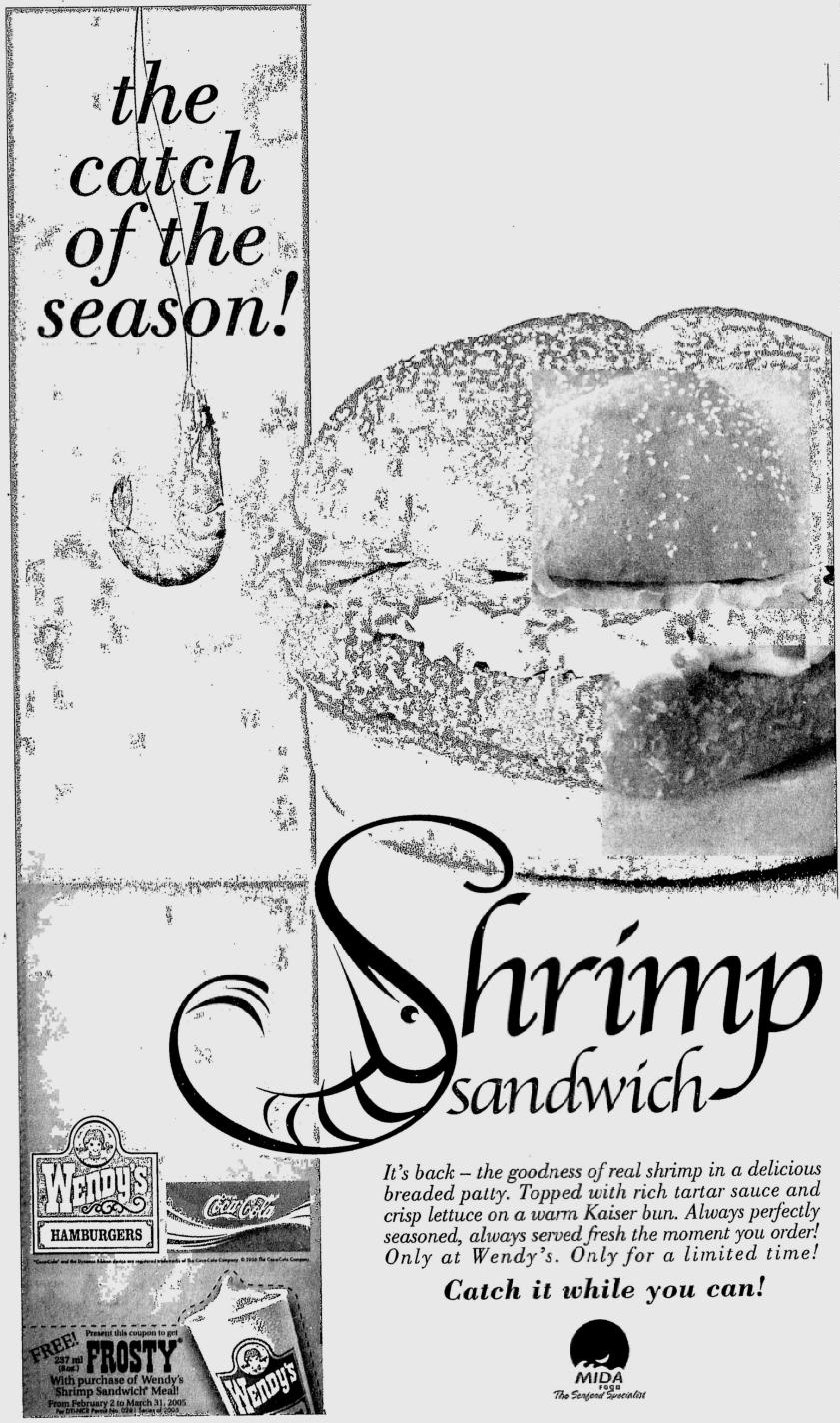
I don't believe in masking good meat with a lot of sauces. Like I said I like mine plain because this allows me to discover and enjoy the full flavor of good beef. But I have been asked for a list of my personal favorites as far as store-bought condiments are concerned so here it is:

- Steak sauce—I don't have one. I haven't found a brand that I could truly hail. You could go for A1 (as if you didn't know that!) or try HP.
- My favorite Worcestershire sauce—Lea & Perrins! By definition of what this sauce should be, this is the only Worcestershire!
- My favorite pepper sauce: Chipotle Tabasco. A must-have! Wonderful smoked chili flavor!
- My favorite barbecue sauce: If I have to use some, I'd make my own! But from a bottle I'd say Lea & Perrins or HP Barbecue Sauce. These brands aren't too overpowering.
- Gravy recipe: I promise to print one next week together with the third installment of the long overdue Spanish cooking terms!

My summer cooking class schedule is out. call 9289296 for a copy.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917 8399888.

KOBE—The marbling in Kobe and Matsuzaka beef makes them the most expensive in the world and so sinfully delicious.



the catch of the season!
Shrimp sandwich
Wendy's
HAMBURGERS
Coca-Cola
FREE! Present this coupon to get
237 ml (8 oz.) FROSTY®
With purchase of Wendy's Shrimp Sandwich® Meal!
From February 2 to March 31, 2005
Wendy's

It's back – the goodness of real shrimp in a delicious breaded patty. Topped with rich tartar sauce and crisp lettuce on a warm Kaiser bun. Always perfectly seasoned, always served fresh the moment you order! Only at Wendy's. Only for a limited time!

Catch it while you can!

MIDA FOOD
The Seafood Specialist